



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Nichola Turnbull

Email: nichola.turnbull@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622617

Date: Tuesday, 16 April 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC** to be held in **CONFERENCE ROOM 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2024** at **2.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

To Communities and Place OSC members as follows:-

N Oliver (Chair), M Mather (Vice-Chair), D Carr, E Cartie, G Castle, A Dale, B Gallacher, N Morphet, J Lang and J Reid



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
- 10)

Minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Place OSC held on 28 February 2024, 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. 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. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

(Pages
11 - 16)

To note the schedule of decisions made by Cabinet since the last meeting together with latest Forward Plan of key decisions. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the Committee.

OVERVIEW

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following items is Councillor Cllr Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Environment.

5. NORTHUMBERLAND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

(Pages
17 - 54)

To update members of the OSC on the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

6. COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MONITORING REPORT

(Pages
55 - 62)

The Committee is asked to review and note its work programme for the 2023/24 council year.

7. 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.

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
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):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		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

	<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"> 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.
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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

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Wednesday, 28 February 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor N. Oliver
(Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Carr, D.	Mather, M.
Cartie, E.	Morphet, N.
Castle, G.	Reid, J.
Lang, J.	

CABINET MEMBERS

G. Stewart	Looking After Our Communities
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

G. Binning	Chief Fire Officer
D. Brown	Strategic Policy, Risk and Performance Officer
H. Hinds	Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead
S Kennedy	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
S. Nicholson	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator
N. Turnbull	Democratic Services Officer

1 member of the press.

36. MINUTES

In response to questions, it was confirmed that:

Minute No 30 Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022-2026 Action Plan Progression

Councillor Morphet stated that he had sought clarification on behalf of another member and therefore it would be more accurate to amend the last sentence to read "She was unsure where the uncertainty arose."

Minute No. 33.2 Update on delivery of Visit Northumberland and the Northumberland Destination Management Plan 2022-2032 28.1 Planning Service Performance Report

Councillor Castle requested that the penultimate bullet point on page 7 be amended to include a reference to Barter Books. The first sentence should read:

“Whilst Berwick benefitted from a train station in the town, Alnwick had two of the highest visited tourist attractions in the county including Alnwick Garden, Alnwick Castle, as well as Barter Books and the recently opened Lilidorei.”

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Place OSC, held on 31 January 2024, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendments.

37. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS

The Committee considered the schedule of decisions made by Cabinet since the last meeting with the latest Forward Plan of key items (Schedule enclosed with the signed minutes).

In answer to a question, the Scrutiny Co-ordinator confirmed that the Housing Regeneration Report – Stock Rationalisation had originally been scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 12 March 2024 but had then been moved to the meeting on 9 April 2024. The first entry on the Forward Plan should have been deleted.

It was also noted that the Financial Performance – Position at the end of December 2023 was also accidentally included twice.

RESOLVED that the schedule of decisions made by Cabinet and the Forward Plan of key items be noted.

38. OVERVIEW

38.1 Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Report

The Committee received an update on the findings of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following the publication of the third inspection report into Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service on 29 November 2023. The inspection report had been received by Council on 17 January 2024. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer explained the background and scale of the challenge the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) faced providing a safe and effective service for the communities of Northumberland against efficiencies that had been required for the previous 10 years.

Following the initial ‘Requires Improvement’ inspection result in 2019, a modest investment in the service in 2019/20 had enabled the reinstatement of posts to support continuous improvement, performance management and cultural development. These improvements had been reflected in the

contextual narrative of the more positive 2021 report. He provided a brief explanation of the changes to the inspection regime and highlighted the following:

- No Causes of Concern.
- No Inadequate judgement (or grades).
- No Requires Improvement.
- 7 Adequate judgements.
- 4 Good judgements.
- 12 Areas for Improvement (compared to 25 following the second inspection in 2021).

He was particularly pleased that of the 11 diagnostic areas assessed, Values and Culture had initially been graded as 'Requires Improvement' and had improved to 'Good'. This would drive people to deliver change and enable the provision of an excellent service.

There had been incredible commitment to improve the service across all fire and rescue employees as well as improved integration with the county council, reflected in the management structure and reporting arrangements.

He thanked the former and current Portfolio Holders who had responsibility for the fire and rescue service for their leadership, Councillors Riddle, Horncastle and Stewart as well as Councillor Dunbar. He also acknowledged the support provided by members of the Communities and Place OSC in welcoming the change of approach to the Community Risk Management Plan and supporting additional provision for contamination issues faced by firefighters. He intended to continue to provide updates to the committee on work, challenges and opportunities.

Responses to questions and comments made by members included:

- The third inspection had introduced an additional grading of adequate and the report explained that where a diagnostic had changed from 'good' to 'adequate' it did not signify a reduction in standard, unless the body of the report stated this. The differences between the different gradings for 'preventing fire and risk' and 'understanding fire and risk' were discussed. They were counterintuitive.
- The previous recruitment process had been a challenge for the service as it had not kept up with the leaver profile and had impacted on operational capability. Implementing a continuous recruitment process had enabled nearly 70 on-call firefighters to be recruited in the last 2 years compared to an annual course which had secured 8 firefighters previously.
- 84% availability for the on-call service and 92% for whole-time service were results to be proud of.
- Northumberland fire stations had a footprint of 334km² with healthy response targets when compared with other areas such as Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service which had an average footprint of 128 km² per station.
- The NFRS were one of 11 local authority fire services in England. Integration allowed an effective response to incidents, particularly with the

reorganisation and inclusion of the Civil Contingencies team within the fire and rescue service.

- The NFRS worked closely with the colleagues at Tyne and Wear FRS and Durham and Darlington FRS as they had similar challenges and priorities albeit with different geographical areas. Officers had attended Senior Leaders sessions chaired by Dr Henry Kippin at the North of Tyne Combined Authority. There had been previous discussions regarding fire reform and potential mayoral or Police and Crime Commission governance models, however, the inspection report proved that the county council governance model was working.
- A glossary of terms would be provided for future discussions of the HMICFRS report.
- A new approach to Equality Impact Assessments had been established following utilisation of examples provided by the National Fire Chief's Council and NCC to find the best fit for NFRS. More progress had been made at the time of the inspection than had been reported.
- An Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) officer had been seconded prior to the inspection to ensure the Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) systems were embedded into the organisation and aligned with the county council. The officer was due to return to their substantive post.
- Further reports be provided to update the committee on the contaminants issue.
- The continuous improvement plan incorporated the 12 areas of improvement identified within the inspection report, to ensure optimum performance was achieved and projects and programmes were being tracked and the recommendations delivered. Progress updates be provided to the committee on a 6 monthly basis on relevant matters that arise as part of the review of the Community Risk Management plan.

Councilor Mather commented as a former on-call firefighter that it was extremely pleasing to see the progress that had been made with availability, staff morale. It was clear the service wanted to improve, be flexible and have better links with the county council and the local community. This was also demonstrated by the willingness of NFRS to respond to major incidents.

It was noted that NFRS were undertaking significantly more than the average number of home fire safety checks and fire safety audits which was to be commended.

The Chair and members thanked the officers and firefighters for the action taken to improve the service over the last few years. The report was positive and informative.

RESOLVED that the outcome of the Inspection Report be noted.

38.2 Storm Response

The Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report which provided an update about Northumberland County Council's preparedness and response arrangements for storms. A summary of progress

was also included against the Storm Arwen recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's task and finish group. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes).

Stephen Kennedy, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, confirmed that the Civil Contingencies Team now formed part of the Fire and Rescue Services directorate following a governance review within the council. This would provide added benefits when responding to incidents and provide assurance to the committee going forward.

The progress made with recommendations following the Storm Arwen Review had been realised with improvements when dealing with recent incidents.

Helen Hinds, Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead, outlined the report and highlighted:

- With the exception of two recommendations, the majority of the Storm Arwen Task and Finish Group recommendations had been closed, moved to business-as-usual activity or were being dealt with by organisations other than the county council.
- Progress was underway to improve the technological capacity of the West Hartford incident room and a bespoke Incident Management system which was expected to be completed at the end of March with training to be provided for staff that would be using it.
- Arrangements for the provision of water and emergency water supplies had been escalated to the Local Resilience Forum to improve understanding of the risk for all partners.
- The Northumberland Incident Response Plan (NIRP) had been utilised multiple times during recent months with several storms, coastal pollution incidents and a severe premises fire which required use of an evacuation centre. Additional learning and areas for development had been identified with further debriefs arranged following Storm Isha and the Hirst Castle fire.
- Community resilience work had been extremely beneficial with community hubs being stood up with equipment purchased since Storm Arwen. Feedback to the Civil Contingency Team when this occurred was desirable to aid monitoring and provide further support and communication.
- Utility companies were category 2 responders who had a legal duty to work with local authorities. There had been improved response arrangements from partners such as Northern PowerGrid and Scottish Power Energy Networks, proactively providing data on vulnerable residents.
- Community solutions were being sought by teams working jointly within the Council to respond to residents' concerns regarding the removal of analogue and creation of digital telephone lines.

Further information supplied by officers in response to questions included:

- Community resilience work to date had revolved around the identification of assets which were owned and run by the community.

- Communities were able to apply for funds from the Northern PowerGrid Foundation for projects and equipment. 20-25 communities in Northumberland had made successful applications for funds to improve their resilience following Storm Arwen.
- It was intended that community buildings be used as hubs for the delivery of additional resources including information, hot drinks, water supplies etc. This followed international, national and Ready Scotland best practice and enabled statutory services to be prioritised and directed at households who were unable to access facilities at community hubs.
- Copies of the existing Town and Parish Plan template checklist be provided to members of the committee. It was intended that a further hub guide be produced in due course.
- Discussions were ongoing regarding the suitability of the '.gov Notify' push notification service used by fire control to allow mass communication with councillors. The technology and infrastructure were available but further work was required on how mass notifications were managed and controlled to ensure councillors received the right information at the right time. Ideally the messages should allow self-activation or provision of further points of reference in a timely manner before councillors were contacted by residents. Systems also needed to be in place to allow feedback of information, such as blocked roads etc.
- During Storm Arwen, door knocking had initially been carried out by staff from NCC, NFRS, Mountain Rescue and the British Red Cross for vulnerable residents. Due to the length of time some communities were without power, the military undertook blanket door knocks from day 7 as those still without power were all vulnerable in the middle of winter.
- The question of vulnerable residents and the digital switchover was understood to have been discussed in Parliament and standard recommendations had been passed to the communications companies by the Minister in charge. Providers were required to find out if households had a special service connected to their phone line, such as a pendant alarm, to ensure provision was put in place. It was believed that the commercial operators were providing different levels of help and advice to customers and also different levels of notification.
- Technological improvements in the incident room included acquisition of hardware, such as an owl camera to improve visual representation. The Incident Management System was a portal or software which could be accessed via a laptop. It was hoped that the Incident Management System could be utilised by NFRS if suitable, although fire control room had its own system.
- The Northumberland Incident Response Plan (NIRP) had been reviewed by the responsible portfolio holder. That post also held the position of the County Emergency Committee Chair. The NIRP was due to be updated in the summer of 2024 with a similar approval process.
- A training exercise involving members of the County Emergency Committee had not been held in recent months although they had been involved in the real incidents.
- Reorganisation by the BBC of local radio stations had halted work to improve communications during incidents via local radio. This action would be investigated further with the Communications Lead officer.

- It was understood that vulnerable customers had to contact their own communications provider for inclusion on priority customer schemes, such as BT, Virgin, Sky, Alncom etc. Openreach did not hold customer information.
- Checks would be made with utility providers whether registration on customer priority registers had to be renewed on a regular basis. If so, this be included on winter preparedness information.

Members made the following comments:

- The flood warning system used by the Environment Agency was excellent, with simultaneous texts, telephone calls and emails.
- The reference in paragraph 6.2 should refer to PSTN digital switchover.
- Older and rural residents were particularly vulnerable if the traditional copper wire analogue telephone lines were removed and there was a loss of power. There was concern regarding the notification process.
- The digital switchover issue had been discussed by the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC earlier in the week. Whilst Openreach provided the infrastructure, it was not a consumer facing company and other commercial operators were involved. The Chair suggested that the Members of Parliament in Northumberland be contacted to request that they make representation to the Government to obtain clarity on the PSTN digital switchover to obtain further information regarding the solution to ensure consistent minimum standards across the county if not the country.
- The Director of Digital and IT was arranging for the distribution of awareness raising leaflets which could be given to residents and promoted through the council's various communication channels.
- The Council's role was to raise awareness whilst the Government's role to set standards and resolve the problem.
- The typographical error on page 93 of the agenda papers in the third column, under Contingency Plans be amended to read "Update provided to OSC on 11 January **by** Adult Social Care colleague".
- County councillors could be used to disseminate information to community response hubs in their wards.
- The Town and Parish Conferences be attended by representatives of the Civil Contingencies Team to share good practice on winter preparedness.
- The community in Glendale had obtained funding to employ a rural advocate to consider issues in the rural area. The digital switchover had been repeatedly raised. An event was planned with the Civil Contingencies Team and Glendale Gateway Trust to educate and discuss issues with town and parish councils, community groups and others.
- The Council needed to help raise the profile of community response hubs to raise awareness with residents and also the support available from the council.
- Battery packs were not necessarily the best solution during events as they only lasted a few hours. It was queried whether it would be beneficial for the Council to purchase Starlink wifi/calling equipment to demonstrate the benefits of the system to communities to aid their community led response. It was estimated that Starlink equipment cost approximately £400-500.

Funds could perhaps be sourced from the Northern PowerGrid Foundation.

- The Local Democracy Reporter be utilised as an additional method of disseminating information to improve communication across the county.

Members thanked the Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead for her participation in the Storm Arwen Task and Finish Group and for the progress made with the recommendations. The review had been an excellent demonstration of how the scrutiny process worked with all members of the different political groups working well together.

Councillor Gordon Stewart, Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Communities, expressed his pride in the Civil Contingencies and Fire and Rescue Service officers. He added that Stephen Kennedy had been appointed as Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer and it was anticipated that this would become his substantive post if approved by Full Council in March.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Committee receive the report and agree the closure of 26 actions from the OSC Storm Arwen report.
2. The Committee continue to support the concept of community resilience within Northumberland.
3. The Members of Parliament in Northumberland be contacted to request that they make representation to the Government to obtain clarity on the PSTN digital switchover to ensure a minimum solution and standards.
4. The Council be recommended to purchase Starlink equipment to enable demonstration to local communities and the value of the equipment for a community led emergency response.

39. Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report

The Committee reviewed its work programme for the 2023/24 council year. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes).

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator confirmed that he regularly contacted portfolio holders and senior officers to ensure that reports were scheduled in a timely matter within the programme.

Arrangements were being made to invite the new leisure provider to a future meeting of the Communities and Place OSC. As the new provider would only be taking over on 1 April 2024, it was unknown at this time whether they would be in a position to attend the committee meeting on 24 April 2024.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Agenda Item 4

DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS - APRIL 2024 TO JUNE 2024

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
Cabinet Papers – 9 April 2024	https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2301
Q3 Corporate Plan Performance Report	9 April 2024 RESOLVED that progress against the three Corporate Priorities, as summarised in the report, be noted.
Hirst Masterplan	9 April 2024 RESOLVED that (a) Cabinet note the attached Executive Summary of the Hirst Draft Masterplan and outline options for the long-term regeneration of the area; (b) Cabinet support the aspiration to work towards the ‘Do Maximum’ option, as set out in section 6.1 of this report, during the ongoing development process; (c) Cabinet approve the establishment of a ‘Hirst Partnership Board’, to be Chaired by the Director of Housing & Planning and to comprise stakeholders, partners, and Senior Officers from Northumberland County Council (NCC); (d) Cabinet approve the recruitment to two collaborative Hirst regeneration posts, to be funded equally by key stakeholders NCC Housing, Advance Northumberland, and Bernicia for three years. The posts will be hosted by the Strategic Housing function within the NCC Housing Service. NCC element will be funded through Housing Reserves; and (e) Cabinet note that communications on the Hirst Masterplan will be integrated into the overall communications strategy for the town as linked to the Ashington Town Board.
Energy Central Campus Phase 1 – Technical Training Kit: Outline Business Case	9 April 2024 RESOLVED that: (a) Cabinet approve the Outline Business Case for the Energy Central Campus Phase 1 – Technical Training Kit to enable progression to Full Business Case; (b) Authority be delegated, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council’s s151 Officer following consideration of the recommendation of the

	<p>Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case;</p> <p>(c) Authority be delegated to the Council's s151 Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the Northumberland County Council as the fund Accountable Body and Energy Central Campus Ltd; and</p> <p>(d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to enter into any contracts relating to the project up to the value of £1.45m, subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.</p>
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>Berwick Culture and Creative Zone</p> <p>Northumberland Playzones</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet accept capital grant funding of £0.330 million for the Berwick Culture and Creative Zone (CCZ) and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the capital grant funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet note the reallocation of grant funding from revenue to capital of £0.110 million and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the capital grant funding in 2025-26; and</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reprofile £0.100 for the CCZ project from 2024-25 to 2025-26.</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the 75% grant contribution of £1.396 million from the Football Foundation for the 6 sites within Portfolio 1 and approve the amendment to the capital programme to include the grant funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet note the Section 106 funding of £0.284 million and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(c) Cabinet note the other external funding of £0.050 million detailed in the report and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to including the funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(d) Cabinet note the £0.020 million contribution from Cllr Stewart and Cllr Scott and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reallocate £0.020 million from the Member's Local Improvement Schemes budget to the Northumberland Playzones Project in 2024-25; and</p> <p>(e) Cabinet approve the proposed spend of £0.111 million which will be funded using the existing Northumberland</p>

	<p>Playzones project in the Capital Programme, which has a current budget of £0.300 million in 2024-25.</p>
<p>Housing Regeneration Report – Stock Rationalisation</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet approve placing lettings on hold within these low demand blocks; (b) Cabinet approve the prioritisation of customers for rehousing; the issuing of Homeloss and disturbance payments as appropriate; (c) Cabinet approve the removal of the existing void properties from the Housing Revenue Account rent roll; (d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to commence negotiations to acquire the two residential leasehold properties and develop a suitable compensation package. Should negotiations not be successful, to compulsorily acquire the properties using compulsory purchase powers as a last resort; (e) Cabinet approve Compulsory Purchase Order process for adjacent properties if required; and (f) Cabinet approve the demolition of low demand stock in Blyth as detailed in the report.
<p>Outcome of the Tenders for the Coquet Partnership</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet note the outcomes of the tender process and approve the delegation to award the contract to Robertsons Construction for the refurbishment works on the South Avenue Site and to Portakabin for the extensions required at the feeder first schools, to the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education; and (b) Cabinet note that, in order to complete the works within the implementation timescales approved by Cabinet on 17th November 2022, a Letter of Intent was issued for works up to a capped value of £989,194.87 prior to the final award of contract. This was undertaken to prevent any increase in cost or delays in programme until the award of contract is complete in April 2024.

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<p>Northumberland Energy Park Phase 3 (NEP3)</p> <p>(Exempt Report) The Northumberland Energy Park Phase 3 (NEP3) site at East Sleekburn is a key strategic employment land site for the County Council; this report will propose how the County Council may wish to maximise the impact of the site for economic growth purposes.</p>	<p>23 April 2024</p>
<p>Energising Blyth: Levelling Up Deep Dive – Bowes Ct.</p> <p>This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval of the Outline Business Case and other key decisions regarding the delivery of the Bowes Court retro-fit of properties. It will recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the Outline Business Case to enable progression to Full Business Case. • Delegate authority, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case. • Delegate approvals to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to enter into any contracts relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed. 	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 - Position at the end of February 2024 (Provisional Outturn)</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital forecast provisional outturn against budget for 2023-24. Due to the timing of the statutory accounts deadline the forecast provisional outturn will be based on the position at the end of February.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>To replace the expiring Climate Change Action Plan 21021-23 and to set out our intended strategies for reaching our climate change targets across the next three years and beyond.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Enterprise Zone – Ashwood Business Park</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with the update and outline of the most recent variation to the Ashwood Enterprise Zone (EZ) business case application from Advance Northumberland to the NELEP.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Loan to Branxton Parish Council</p> <p>This report provides details of a potential loan facility to Branxton Parish Council of £1,300.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Oracle Contract Refresh</p> <p>To gain Cabinet's agreement on refreshing Oracle contract to provide NCC's Enterprise Resource Planning, Human Capital Management and Enterprise Performance Management services.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>

<p>Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment</p> <p>For approval.</p>	<p>7 May 2024</p>
<p>Selective Licensing Scheme</p> <p>To review the Selective Licensing proposal including the changes detailed following the Consultation. To approve the recommendations detailed in the Consultation outcome for the Selective Licensing scheme. To seek approval for the Selective Licensing scheme which is proposed for a designated area of Blyth.</p>	<p>11 June 2024</p>

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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 24 April 2024

Northumberland Infrastructure Statement

Report of Councillor(s) Colin Horncastle Cabinet Member

Responsible Officer(s): Simon Neilson, Executive Director

1. **Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan**

Testing

2. **Purpose of report**

To update members of OSC on the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement

3. **Recommendations**

This paper is presented each year to OSC for information purposes only

4. **Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable**

NA

5. **Background**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations require all planning authorities that enter into S106 planning obligations to publish a yearly statement. This is the fourth such report submitted and published.

This statement, following specific requests from OSC members, includes a breakdown of all S106 funds for each of the 5 Local Area Committees (LACS). It should be noted that in all areas, funding for education and healthcare are considered as ringfenced for future schemes and are shown as 'allocated' but not yet spent. This is because the timeframe for these types of infrastructure can span several years.

Previous feedback from DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities) on the Northumberland Infrastructure Statement has been extremely positive, with the County Council’s approach being promoted as “clear, concise, informative, with very well-presented case studies”. The attached statement has been published on the Council’s website, and purposely includes extensive explanatory material as well as annual data.

National changes to infrastructure funding arrangements are expected and have been consulted upon. Most significantly, this potentially includes the long-expected move to a mandatory “tariff” based system. At the present however, the timescale for regulatory change is uncertain.

6. Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations

When/if government publishes new legislation in relation to a “tariff” based infrastructure funding system, a draft approach will be formulated.

7. Implications

Policy	NA
Finance and value for money	Existing System
Legal	Existing System
Procurement	NA
Human resources	NA
Property	NA
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	No – not required at this point Existing system, awaiting legislative change
Risk assessment	Risks identified and addressed in various audit reports on S106 process
Crime and disorder	NA
Customer considerations	NA
Carbon reduction	New or replacement infrastructure provided will comply with all relevant modern Building Control standards

Health and wellbeing	The infrastructure provided by the funding secures healthy, active and well-designed places
Wards	All

8. Background papers

Infrastructure Funding Statement

9. Links to other key reports already published

Previous Infrastructure Funding Statements

10. Author and Contact Details

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Northumberland
County Council

Northumberland Infrastructure Funding Statement

From 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

[Northumberland County Council website](#)

Contents

About this Statement	3
Executive Summary	4
Section 1 Introduction	5
A Community Infrastructure Levy in Northumberland	6
Planning Obligations in Northumberland	7
Section 2 Financial Data Funding Received	8
Section 2 continued	9
Section 3 Financial Data Funding Spent	10
Committed Funds	11
Section 4	13
Section 278 Matters	13
Section 5	14
Conclusions	14
Future Planning Obligations	14
Future Community Infrastructure Levy	14
Section 5 continued	15
Spending Priorities	15
The Northumberland Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans	16
Local Area Committees	17
Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds North Northumberland	18
Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds Tynedale	20
Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds Castle Morpeth	22
Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds Cramlington Bedlington and Seaton Valley	24
Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds Ashington and Blyth	26
Appendix	28
Space for Shorebirds	28
Case Study – Healthcare	30
Case Study - Sport and Play funds	30
Glossary	31
Further Reading	33

About this Statement

This Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is a report providing a summary of all financial and non-financial developer contributions, within Northumberland, for the financial year 2022/2023.

This is the fourth Infrastructure Funding Statement produced by Northumberland County Council. Recent changes to legislation (The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations – Regulation 121A and Schedule 2) mean the Council is required to publish such a statement annually.

How to use this statement

The Infrastructure Funding Statement is intended to provide users with a guide to developer contributions in Northumberland. In summary, the statement comprises the following:

Executive Summary: This sums up the IFS, including the key headlines.

Section 1 provides an introduction and background.

Section 2 details the total amount of money agreed under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions agreed in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.

Section 3 details the money from planning obligations spent and committed in the financial year, and the money not yet spent.

Section 4 details the money agreed from Section 278 Agreements (Highways)

Section 5 offers some summing up and consideration of future priorities.

Appendix: case studies, some background to developer contributions to the Coastal Mitigation Service and an example affordable housing scheme

Glossary – There is a jargon busting glossary at the end of this document.

Executive Summary

This is the fourth Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) produced by Northumberland County Council.

As Northumberland County Council is not currently a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Authority, this IFS does not report on CIL. It instead focusses on Section 106 agreements, and additionally reports on Section 278 (Highway Agreements).

The total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered during the reported year is £756,895.10.

The total amount of money received from planning obligations during the reported year was £5,050,707.37. These contributions will play a critical role in delivering much needed affordable housing and necessary infrastructure and mitigation measures, including education, healthcare, sport and play and coastal mitigation.

The delivery of 38 affordable homes have been agreed in the reported year.

There was also £748,201 secured by s278 Highway agreements during this year for highway improvement works.

The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year is £14,696,613.83. The Council will work to ensure the money is effectively and lawfully spent.

Section 1 Introduction

Planning Obligations are planning tools that can be used to secure financial and non-financial contributions, and to put in place certain requirements or restrictions, to ensure new development can be made acceptable in planning terms

The terms 'Planning Obligations' and 'Section 106 agreements' usually refer to the same thing. They are legal agreements which can be attached to a planning permission to support development and mitigate the impacts of development.

The term 'developer contributions' may also be used. This can refer to the same thing, but can also encompass other 'contributions', namely the Community Infrastructure Levy and contributions for highway works linked to new development.



Northumberland County Council currently secures planning obligations. It is therefore the authority's responsibility to ensure that the requirements for obligations are necessary, fair and reasonable. It is also the authority's responsibility to ensure that contributions are spent lawfully and effectively and that these are reported on.

The aim of this Infrastructure Funding Statement is to improve transparency of monitoring and reporting, specifically in respect of Section 106 agreements for financial and non- financial contributions, but also Section 278 Agreements.

A Community Infrastructure Levy in Northumberland

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), is a fixed rate levy, charged per square metre of new development. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure required to support development across the local authority area. To date, **Northumberland County Council is not a charging authority i.e., there is currently no Community Infrastructure Levy charge in Northumberland.**

The government has signalled potential reforms to the Levy and to the wider system of developer contributions. The Council is closely monitoring the proposals, and potential implications for Northumberland.

Should a Levy be introduced, details of the money collected and how it is spent will be reported in future versions of the Infrastructure Funding Statement, or similar report, depending on any future regulatory changes.

Detailed guidance on CIL is provided in national Planning Practice Guidance.



Planning Obligations in Northumberland

The planning obligations reported on in this Infrastructure Funding Statement, were collected under the provisions of the Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework & associated Supplementary Planning Documents.



Detailed guidance on Section 106 agreements is provided in national Planning Practice Guidance. The following summarises the basics:

Section 106 agreements are used to mitigate the impacts of development and make it acceptable in planning terms;

Section 106 can only be used where they meet certain legal tests. That is that the obligations must be:

- A.** necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- B.** directly related to the development; and
- C.** fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development;

Requirements for parts of a development to be used in certain ways, for example for affordable housing; Requirements for certain works to be undertaken or for other requirements and/or restrictions on the form of the development; or

Financial contributions to address the impacts of development (the focus of this IFS).

Section 2 Financial Data Funding Received

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Details the total amount of money under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.

A. The total amount of money to be provided under any planning obligations which were entered during the reported year is £756,895.10

This figure does not consider indexation (inflation/deflation) that may be applied when the money becomes due.

B. The total amount of money received from planning obligations during the reported year was £5,050,707.37

C. The total amount of money received prior to the reported year that has not been spent is £10,830,516.24

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 3

Please note, the amounts shown in this report are maximum amounts and the final contribution paid can vary and is dependent on viability, phasing of the scheme and submission of any reserved matters which could alter the final payment. The reader should also be aware that proposed developments may never commence or can change over time. Trigger points for payments may never be realised for a variety of reasons.

Section 2 continued

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Details the total amount of money under all planning obligations in the reported year and summarises details of non-monetary contributions in reported year, including details of affordable housing units.



D. During the reported year the following non-monetary contributions have been agreed under planning obligations

- i) The total number of Affordable Housing units to be provided is 38
- ii) This year no Education provisions have been agreed under S106 agreements

Section 3 Financial Data Funding Spent

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Details the money from planning obligations spent and committed in the financial year and the money not yet spent.

E. The total amount of money from planning obligations allocated towards infrastructure during the reported year was £2,127,694.48 of this amount £1,383,896.45 was not spent during the reported year.

Unspent Infrastructure allocated funds

Highways: Allocated £100,00.00, unspent £100,000.00

Homegroup: Allocated £916,568.00, unspent £907,620.00

Healthcare: Allocated 57,300.00, unspent £57,300.00

Refund: Allocated £394.00, unspent £394.00

Highway: Allocated £85,000.00, unspent £8,520.40

Highway works New Hartley: Allocated £162,400.00, unspent £153,888.68

Historic Kilns: Allocated £60,000.00, unspent £22,232.40

Various Sport and Play: Allocated £133,940.97, unspent £133,940.97

F. The total amount of money from planning obligations spent during the reported year was £1,223,063.78 Of this amount £578,473.04 was spent by a third party on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

Committed Funds

Affordable Housing

The Council have received 2 applications for funding for affordable housing schemes seeking a combined total of £2.8m

G. The items in the following table have had money allocated towards them during the reported year with unspent allocations:

Please note expenditure of contributions are often time limited and many projects require several months and in some cases years for the schemes to be implemented.

Awards are closely monitored to ensure funds are spent in accordance with the legal agreements.

H. In relation to money which was spent by Northumberland County Council during the reported year:

i) Items of infrastructure that planning obligation money has been spent on and the amount spent £ 1,223,063.78

- Highway Improvement works at various schemes including Hadston, Ponteland, New Hartley, Cramlington spent £414,652.73
- Coastal Mitigation for Space for Shorebirds work spent £142,201.76
- Hexham and Tynedale Community Trust spent Community Open Space of £18,056.80
- Category of Community Benefit £70,000.00 was given to Widdrington and Stobswood PC
- NCC (Northumberland County Council) outdoor services spent £19,820.00 at various sites in North Northumberland on open space maintenance
- National Health Service and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board spent £46,881.89 on improvements to GP practices
- Home Group claimed £329,880.00 for their Affordable housing scheme at Amble
- Humshaugh Playing Field Trust, Newbrough & Warden, Longhoughton claimed a total of £133,803.00 for Sport and Play area improvements
- A total of £47,767.60 fell within the miscellaneous category of expenditure including fees and Historic Structure repairs

ii) There was no money spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, with details of the items of infrastructure

iii) The amount of planning obligation money spent in respect of administration of planning obligations and monitoring in relation to the delivery of planning obligations during the reported year was £10,000

I. The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year is £14,696,613.83. Of this amount £773,679.27 has been retained for long term maintenance.

Section 4

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Details the money agreed and spent from Section 278 Agreements

Some development schemes require a contribution towards highway improvement works (in addition to any Section 38 or Section 278 agreements). Examples of highway obligations can include contributions towards the cost of installing Road Traffic orders, speed restrictions, new roundabouts, or improved pedestrian crossing.

Section 278 Matters

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 4

The following matters are agreements entered into during the reported year in respect to Highways Agreements under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980. Totalling **£748,201.00**

The location and bond sums are described below.

- Land North East of Pegswood First School for £105,000.00
- Premier Inn, Willowburn Trading Estate, Alnwick for £62,215.00
- South Newsham Road, Blyth for £503,991.09
- Land at Commissioners Quay, Quay Road, Blyth for £30,000.00
- Field West of Lea Hall Splitty Lane, Catton for £10,000
- Gilbert Ward SEN Academy princess Louise Road, Blyth for £29,995.00

Section 5

Conclusions

The money agreed, received and spent under Planning Obligation agreements can be seen to make a valuable contribution to supporting and mitigating development and benefitting local communities.

The Council will work, with stakeholders, to ensure that contributions which have not yet been allocated or spent, are appropriately and effectively delivered.

The Council will also work to continually improve the systems in which planning obligations operate, such as the mechanisms by which planning obligations are agreed, how they are allocated and how they are monitored. In respect of the latter, it should be noted that the Council has recently introduced fees for monitoring to ensure effectiveness of processes and procedures. Monitoring fees will similarly be reported in future Infrastructure Funding Statements.

Future Planning Obligations

Future income from planning obligations is difficult to predict. At this point in time the Council considers it cannot provide an estimate. This is in part on account of a changing Development Plan context. The Council will however look to introduce forecasting in future Infrastructure Delivery Plans.

Future Community Infrastructure Levy

Pending potential national reforms to the Community Infrastructure Levy, should such a charge be introduced in Northumberland, future iterations of the infrastructure Funding Statement (or similar document, pending any regulatory changes) will include details of the Levy collected and how it has been allocated and spent.

Section 5 continued

Spending Priorities

Developer contributions will be used to deliver strategic policies including:

Affordable Housing - Supporting the delivery of affordable homes is a priority for the Council. Evidence shows that many households in Northumberland cannot afford market housing. New development will be required to provide a proportion of affordable housing, usually on-site as part of new development.

Coastal Mitigation Service – Increased recreation-related disturbance on the coast is a particular concern because most of the Northumberland coast is designated as SSSI on account of its nationally important bird populations; and much of it is also designated as SPA and 'Ramsar Site' (because of the international importance of some of these populations). In order to ensure that effective mitigation can be provided to address this problem, the Council has introduced the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service. This is a developer-funded warden service to protect the coastal environment (see Appendix).

Education provision – new housing generates additional pupils. Where there are capacity constraints at nearby schools it may be necessary to secure developer contributions towards expanding capacity and creating additional pupil places.

Healthcare provision – there are known capacity constraints in some parts of the County in respect of primary health care such as GP practices. Where appropriate and necessary, developer contributions will be sought to address the additional needs generated by new development.

Open space and sport and play - the provision of open space, sport and play varies across the County. Where appropriate, developer contributions will be sought. This may be for new provision or to target improvements to existing provision, for example to improve quality or accessibility.

The Northumberland Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans

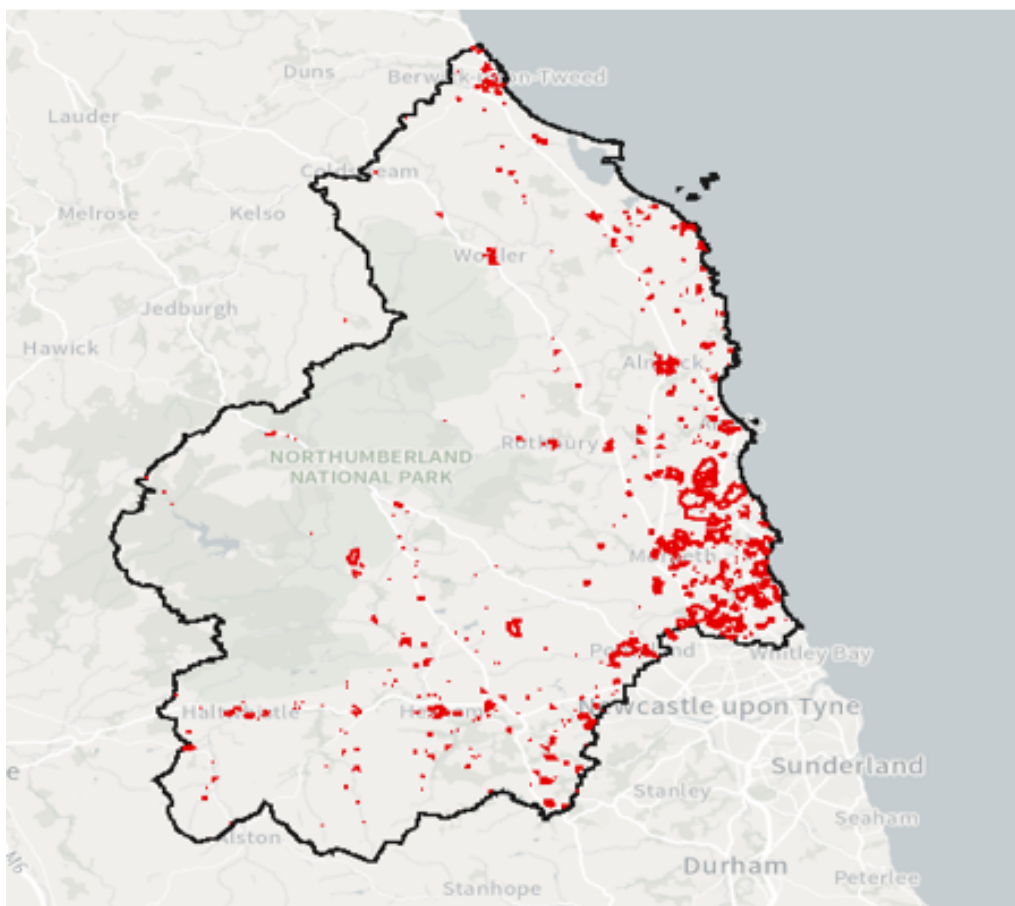
The Northumberland Local Plan was adopted on the 31st of March 2022. The Local Plan is the new statutory development plan for Northumberland, alongside all 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. The Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans set out new policies under which future planning obligations will be secured.

Map showing locations of developments with S106 agreements

Looking for a copy of a S106 agreement?

Please use the link below to search our Northumberland map to help locate it.

[View our Interactive Section 106 Agreement Map](#)



Local Area Committees

Northumberland's planning committees are broken down into 5 different area committees

Figures on the following five pages show the total of S106 funds collected for each local area since contributions were recorded by NCC (circa 2012 onwards to 31st March 2023)

North Northumberland: Alnwick, Amble, Amble West with Warkworth, Bamburgh, Berwick East, Berwick North, Berwick West with Ord, Longhoughton, Norham and Islandshires, Rothbury, Shilbottle, Wooler

Castle Morpeth: Choppington, Druridge Bay, Longhorsley , Lynemouth, Morpeth Kirkhill, Morpeth North, Morpeth Stobhill, Pegswood , Ponteland East and Stannington, Ponteland North, Ponteland South with Heddon, Ponteland West, Stakeford

Ashington and Blyth: Ashington Central, Bothal, College, Cowpen, Croft, Haydon, Hirst, Isabella, Kitty Brewster, Newbiggin Central and East, Newsham, Plessey, Seaton with Newbiggin West, Sleekburn, South Blyth, Wensleydale

Tynedale Bellingham, Bywell, Corbridge, Haltwhistle, Haydon and Hadrian, Hexham Central with Acomb, Hexham East, Hexham West, Humshaugh, Prudhoe North, Prudhoe South Prudhoe, South Tynedale, Stocksfield with Broomhaugh

Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley: Bedlington Central, Bedlington East, Bedlington West, Cramlington East, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East, Cramlington Village, Cramlington West, Hartley, Holywell, Seghill with Seaton Delaval

Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds

North Northumberland

Education

For this committee area we have received £932,064.98 and this remains unspent. Out of this, £887,748.00 has been allocated to school projects which leaves an available balance of £44,316.98.

Affordable Housing

We have received £2,334,732.00 of which £1,257,456.57 has been spent, and £1,043,525.43 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £33,750.00

Sport and Play

We have received £183,620.00 and spent £130,714.92. A further £6,560 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £46,345.08

Highways

We have received £406,400.00 and spent £147,000. A further £246,400 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £13,000.00

Community Facilities

We have received £262,366.35 and spent £233,237.85, which leaves an available balance of £29,128.50

Outdoor Sport

We have received £260,500.00 and spent £20,000.00. As at the 31st March 2023 there were no allocated schemes, leaving an available balance of £240,500.00

Miscellaneous

We have received £21,090.00 and spent £950, leaving an available balance of £20,140.00

Ecology

We have received £395,590.86 and spent £46,260.38. A further £311,852.36 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £37,478.12

Pre 2009

Carried forward is an amount we have received of £126,795 and spent £105,140 leaving an available balance of £21,665

Healthcare

We have received £497,490.79 and this remains unspent. £402,157.60 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £95,333.19

Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds

Tynedale

Education

For this committee area we have received no funding in this year.

Affordable Housing

We have received £1,082,174.68 of which £250,000 has been spent. The sum of £531,000 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £301,174.68.

Play

We have received £1,613,083.94 and spent £1,347,368.21. The sum of £72,827.20 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £192,888.53

Highways

We have received £38,000 and all has been spent

Sport

We have received £1,888,011.95 and spent £1,611,830.97. The sum of £216,857.90 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £59,323.08

Miscellaneous

We have received £66,915 and spent £6,915, leaving an available balance of £60,000.

SUDS

We have received £83,188 and this was spent all on the particular scheme it was required for.

Open Space

We have received £36,000 and spent £21,000. The remaining amount of £15,000 is allocated.

Ecology

We have received £10,000 and it is all allocated to the Coastal Mitigation service.

Healthcare

We have received £17,400 and it is all allocated to providing primary healthcare through GP practices.

Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds

Castle Morpeth

Education

For this committee area we have received £1,400,012.04 and spent £277,373.85. The sum of £1,038,343.15 has been allocated to school projects, which leaves an available balance of £84,295.04

Affordable Housing

We have received £3,808,164.84 of which £2,060,673 has been spent. The sum of £1,537,707.03 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £209,784.81

Play

We have received £20,780 and spent £18,004, leaving an available balance of £2776

Transport and Highways

We have received £1,508,813 and spent £980,030.51. The sum of £517,782.49 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £11,000

Sport

We have received £8040 and spent £7316, with an available balance of £724 remaining.

Miscellaneous

We have received £84,885.44 and spent £1080. The sum of £83,805.44 is allocated, leaving a nil balance.

Recycling

We have received £20,700 and all it has been spent.

Community Facility

We have received £158,100 and spent £138,100, leaving an available balance of £20,000.

Ecology

We have received £88,451.27 and spent £0. The sum of £73,590.81 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £14,860.46

Healthcare

We have received £284,728.98 and none is yet spent. The sum of £257,678.04 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £27,050.94

Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds Cramlington Bedlington and Seaton Valley

Education

For this committee area we have received £987,500 and this remains unspent. Out of this £987,500 has been allocated to school projects which leaves an available balance of £0.

Affordable Housing

We have received £1,085,686 of which £1,013,011 has been spent, and £72,675 is allocated, leaving a nil balance.

Play

We have received £460,665.20 and spent £455,213.20, leaving an available balance of £5,452.

Transport and Highways

We have received £879,426 and spent £304,151.95. A further £469,759.37 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £105,514.68.

Sport

We have received £667,465.20 and spent £272,797.98. A further £10,000 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £384,667.22.

Travel

We have received £62,000 and spent £20,000, leaving an available balance of £42,000.

Local centre

We have received £2,502 and spent £0, leaving an available balance of £2,502.00.

Miscellaneous

We have received £19,320 and spent £12,820, leaving an available balance of £6,500.

Ecology

We have received £191,510.95 and spent £49,842.61. A further £94,932.60 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £46,735.74.

Healthcare

We have received £249,187 and this remains unspent. £197,250 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £51,937.

Local Area Committee Breakdown of Developer Funds

Ashington and Blyth

Education

For this committee area we have received £1,188,928.41 of which £75,000 has been spent and the remaining £1,113,928.41 has been allocated to school projects.

Affordable Housing

We have received £517,268 of which £100,000 has been spent and £417,268 is allocated, leaving a nil available balance.

Play

We have received £395,568.60 of which £329,052.10 has been spent, leaving an available balance of £66,516.50

Transport and Highways

We have received £659,020.73 and spent £222,500. A further £212,184.53 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £224,336.20.

Sport

We have received £610,768.89 and spent £367,069.13, leaving an available balance of £243,699.76.

Sport and Community Facility

We have received £432,722 and spent £354,202, leaving an available balance of £78,520.

Windfarm Community

We have received £380,335.80 and spent £238,386.84. A further £67,168.21 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £74,780.75.

Miscellaneous

We have received £58,868.12 and spent £48,368.12, leaving an available balance of £10,500.

Ecology

We have received £404,226 and spent £43,000. A further £323,075 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £38,151.

Healthcare

We have received £513,300 which remains unspent. £99,300 is allocated, leaving an available balance of £414,000.

Appendix

Space for Shorebirds

The Northumberland coast supports internationally important bird populations, including a wide range of migratory and wintering waders and breeding tern species. Wading birds such as turnstone and purple sandpiper live on our shores during autumn and winter - finding their food and safe places to rest.

Human recreation such as walking and dog walking can interrupt their normal behaviours causing them to fly away, costing them energy reserves that can be hard to replace during the cold winter months. Many of these birds perform huge migrations flying north in late spring to breed on arctic tundra and coasts in order to raise their chicks.

Space for Shorebirds is the name of Northumberland County Council's Coastal Mitigation service, the focus of which is education and engagement to increase awareness of shorebirds and asking people to give the birds space to reduce disturbance.



This is a wildlife ranger service that is funded by the main part of the work is talking to beach users showing people the birds and encouraging people to look out for wildlife and give the birds space, to increase understanding of how to share the coastal environment with the birds that depend on it without causing them harm.

Rangers also undertake a programme of monitoring work to increase understanding of the nature and extent of recreational disturbance upon bird populations – the 3rd year of monitoring data and the first year not affected by covid lockdowns.

Breeding season of the summer of 2022 was significantly more successful than 2021, with 12 pairs of ringed plover nesting in protection areas established by rangers – 13 ringed plover chicks and 1 oystercatcher chicks fledged, in comparison to 4 ringed plovers fledged the previous year. This work had strong public support with local

residents in particular becoming invested in the fortunes of their beach nesting ringed plovers.

Several well attended talks were delivered by rangers, for example in Beadnell village with the National Trust, at Longhoughton Parish Council Warmhub and the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club.



10 free to attend guided walks were also held in various locations, almost all were over-subscribed showing the appetite to learn about the birds of Northumberland's coast. Again, this year people who attended walks went on to become Coast Care volunteers and subsequently helped in chick watching and bird surveying for Space for Shorebirds.

468 person hours (previous year 258) were spent removing the invasive weed pirri pirri burr from important dune grasslands at Druridge, Cocklawburn, Bamburgh and Beadnell. This work is undertaken in partnership with volunteers from Coast Care.

During this year, an evaluation process was developed involving an evaluation framework and a public awareness online questionnaire. 357 responses were received, 94% of whom were concerned about declining bird populations and 73% agreed that human recreation activity disturbs coastal birds.

Significantly, an additional ranger joined the team in October 2022 bringing the team up to 3 full time members of staff, this was possible because more housing development came forward through the planning system than was previously forecast.

Case Study – Healthcare

GP's can increase their capacity by investing in a variety of capital improvements. Some of these will involve constructing new GP buildings, physical space with extensions or alterations, but other possible uses of S106 funds could involve technology or equipment to reduce consultation times, thus allowing more patients to be seen.



To



A patients' records storage room converted to a patient consulting room.

Case Study - Sport and Play funds

An application was submitted by Hexham Town Council to apply for funding to 'revamp the ramps' in a popular well-used facility in Sele Park in Hexham.

The existing park was no longer safe and fit for use. It did not attract new visitors and was not good for learners or users with special needs.

The park needed to be inclusive, so designs and quotes were obtained, and other funding was raised. Total cost was to be £150,000 plus VAT. The Town Council pledged £20,000, £40,000 from Suez community fund and Hexham Youth Initiative raised £4,000 from sponsored events including a mud run and a 24-hour skate event. Section 106 funds contributed the remaining £81,000.



To



Glossary

IFS – shorthand for Infrastructure Funding Statement (this document).

Planning Obligation - Planning obligations are legal obligations entered into to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. Planning obligations are also commonly referred to as 'section 106', 's106', as well as 'developer contributions. (A Planning Obligation can also be via a 'unilateral undertaking,' entered into by a person with an interest in the land without the local planning authority.) Obligations can only be sought where they are directly related to the development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development, and necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

Section 106 Agreement – Section 106 Agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 between a Local Planning Authority and applicants for planning permission/developers.

Section 278 agreement - Section 278 Agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Highways Act 1990 between Local Highway Authorities and Developers. Section 278 agreements are required to secure alterations or improvements to the highway.

Section 38 agreement – Section 38 agreements are legally binding agreements made under the Highways Act 1990 between Local Highway Authorities and Developers. Section 38 agreements are required when the highway is offered for adoption as a public highway.

CIL or Community Infrastructure Levy – The Community Infrastructure Levy, is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development. The levy only applies in areas where a local authority has consulted on, and approved, a 'charging schedule.' To date, Northumberland County Council is not a charging authority i.e. there is currently no Community Infrastructure Levy charge in Northumberland. Should the Levy be introduced, details of the money collected and how it is spent will be reported in future versions of the Infrastructure Funding Statement. The Community Infrastructure Levy can also be described as a type of 'developer contribution.

Local Plan - A Local Plan, also referred to as a development plan or development plan document, is at the heart of the planning system, with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of

the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating, and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan - (Sometimes referred to as **IDP**) An Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies the likely infrastructure requirements of an area, associated with development. In Northumberland, the current Infrastructure Delivery Plan covers the plan period, up to 2036. The Plan is the output of engagement with infrastructure providers to identify current infrastructure capacity, and to determine likely future infrastructure requirements based on the Local Plan. Focussing on strategic infrastructure requirements, the IDP seeks to identify completed, committed, and planned investment across physical, social and green infrastructure types. Where possible the IDP identifies where funding for infrastructure will come from. It also identifies where there are funding gaps.

Agreed – Contributions that have been agreed within a signed legal document. These contributions have not yet been collected. The collection of contributions is usually triggered at certain points of development, or upon commencement of development. If the planning applications are not implemented, the contributions will never be received.

Transferred - Monetary or non-monetary contributions are frequently transferred from the Council to a third party which then delivers the contribution.

This Financial Year or This reported year - unless stated otherwise, this refers to the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Affordable Housing - affordable housing is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers). It must also comply with a specific definition of affordable homes (being either: affordable homes for rent, starter homes, discounted market sales housing, or other affordable routes to home ownership)

Further Reading



Please find the links to useful resources and contact details regarding data and information throughout this report;

To view the latest table showing all S106 financial contributions held and received by the Council. See [Section 106 Contributions Table](#).

To apply for Affordable Housing monies, please refer to the Affordable Housing protocol guidance and application form on the [Affordable Housing web page](#).

To apply for Sport and Play monies please refer to the [Funding for Sport and Play web page](#).

Looking for a copy of a S106 agreement? Please use this link to search our Northumberland map to help locate it.

[Interactive Self-Serve Section 106 Agreement Map](#)

We appreciate all feedback from customers on the provision of this information. If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please email us on the email address below. We will aim to respond to your comments/questions within 20 working days.

If you have any enquiries regarding any of the information in this document, please contact s106@northumberland.gov.uk

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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2023-2024

1. Terms of reference:

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the County Council and Active Northumberland, Woodhorn Museum Charitable Trust and Northumberland Tourism.
- (2) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Development Planning
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Conservation
 - Housing
 - Climate Change
 - Countryside, Biodiversity and Landscape Quality
 - Waste Management and Energy Use
 - Public and Community Transport Network and Travel to School
 - Highway Maintenance, Streetscape and the Local Environment
 - Local and Neighbourhood services
 - Crime, Community Safety, and Fear of Crime, including CONTEST, Prevent and Channel
 - Antisocial Behaviour and Domestic Violence
 - Fire and Rescue
 - Emergency Services and Emergency Planning
 - Customer Services
 - Provision of Cultural and Leisure Facilities
 - Improving Quality of Life through Access to Culture and Leisure;
 - Supporting Economic Growth in the Arts, Culture and Leisure Sectors

2. Issues to be Timetabled/Considered

This will include work that the OSC can be more proactive in early stage development work in formulating new policies and strategies; to investigate matters of interest and concern to the wider community, and to keep under review the performance and financial position of the Council. Issues identified by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme are:

- North East Transport Plan

- Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans – development of the programme
- Northumberland Road Safety Strategy – use of members scheme funds and costings.
- Northumberland Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- New Section 106 system (waiting for regulations to be laid by Parliament)
- Green / Open spaces review
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Highways Maintenance Programme
- Introduction to Places for People Leisure

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2023-2024

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	31 May 2023	Fire and Rescue – Contamination	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to agree that financial support for the recommendations made by the fire and rescue service be provided to ensure that Northumberland was leading to reduce the risk of contamination and supporting fire and rescue personnel.	Recommendation was agreed by Cabinet on 11 July 2023.
2.	31 May 2023	Food Waste Recycling Pilot	RESOLVED that the presentation be received and food waste trial results to date be noted.	The OSC to receive further updates as appropriate.
Page 59	27 July 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Improving Our Roads and Highways	RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix My Street (with links to Network Management Plan / road hierarchy) • North East Transport Plan • Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans – development of the programme • Northumberland Road Safety Strategy – use of members scheme funds and costings. • Northumberland Rights of Way Improvement Plan 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.
	4.	27 July 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Environment	RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Regulation Bill • New Section 106 system • Green / Open spaces review • Local Nature Recovery Strategy • A task and finish group on the environment 	
5.	27 July 2023	Update on the Development of a Tree Management Policy	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The progress made on developing the Tree Management Policy be noted. 2. The draft structure of the Tree Management Policy was supported with comments made as above. 	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.
6.	27 September 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Promoting Healthy Lives	<p>RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review by Active Northumberland • Presentation by future leisure services provider • DDP and DMP • Joint review with CSEG ESC on broadband. 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.
7.	27 September 2023	<p>Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Communities</p> <p>Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report</p>	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the NFRS Annual Performance Report be noted and its review be included in the work programme on an annual basis including information on the scrutiny of core measures and the E&SV toolkit. 2. The item listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger Local Resilience Forum pilot and COMAH exercise. 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.

8.	27 September 2023	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Public Interest Report	RESOLVED that (a) the report be agreed, and (b) a report on planning performance including numbers of applications, resourcing, enforcement including the legal process and costs of decisions against Council decisions.	A report on Planning performance be added to the OSC's work programme.
9.	25 October 2023	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022 – 2026 Action Plan Progression	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the updates regarding actions that have been taken to meet the priorities identified to supports our residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	The Committee may seek further updates on the implementation of the action plan as appropriate.
10.	25 October 2023	Update on Implementation of Fix My Street	RESOLVED that the progress made on the development and implementation of the Fix My Street system be noted.	No further action required.
11.	29 November 2023	Planning Service Performance Report	RESOLVED that: 1. The contents of the report be noted. 2. Members of the committee noted the potential for increase in planning income and recommended to Cabinet to consider investment in the enforcement team and the addition of a rolling fighting fund to support this work. 3. Cabinet to also consider additional support for the Planning Department to deal with the increase in the number of planning applications and enquiries received.	Cabinet consider the OSC's recommendations on 16 January 2024 and resolved that: (a) <i>the recommendation from Scrutiny to consider investment in the enforcement team and the addition of a rolling fighting fund to support this work be accepted;</i> (b) <i>the recommendation from Scrutiny to also consider additional support for the Planning Department to deal with the increase in the number of planning applications and enquiries received be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process; and</i> (c) <i>a Policy Conference around the planning process and enforcement be set up.</i>
12.	31 January 2024	Active Northumberland Annual Outcome Report 2022-23 including the Service Plan Successes 2022-23	RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted.	The new service provider be invited to a future meeting.
13.	31 January 2024	Update on delivery of Visit Northumberland and the Northumberland	RESOLVED that: 1. The achievements of Visit Northumberland's efforts to maximise the visitor economy's	The OSC will continue to receive annual updates. An Infrastructure Audit be presented to the OSC in due course.

		Destinations Management Plan 2022-2032	<p>contribution to the Northumberland economy, be noted.</p> <p>2. The progress made in the delivery of actions against the priorities of the Northumberland Destination Management Plan, be noted.</p> <p>3. The Infrastructure Audit be added to the committee work programme, when completed.</p>	
14.	31 January 2024	Corporate Feedback Performance 2022/2023	RESOLVED that the report be received.	The OSC will continue to receive annual updates.
15.	28 February 2024	Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Report	RESOLVED that the outcome of the Inspection Report be noted.	The OSC will receive six monthly monitoring reports on the FRS's Improvement Plan.
16.	28 February 2024	Storm Response	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. The Committee receive the report and agree the closure of 26 actions from the OSC Storm Arwen report.</p> <p>2. The Committee continue to support the concept of community resilience within Northumberland.</p> <p>3. The Members of Parliament in Northumberland be contacted to request that they make representation to the Government to obtain clarity on the PTSN digital switchover to ensure a minimum solution and standards.</p> <p>4. The Council be recommended to purchase Starlink equipment to enable demonstration to local communities and the value of the equipment for a community led emergency response.</p>	The Committee will continue to receive updates on community resilience.