



Northumberland

County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Heather Bowers

Email:

Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 07873 700 976

Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in **NETHERTON SOCIAL CLUB, 1A NETHERTON LANE, BEDLINGTON, NE22 6DP** on **WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023** at **5.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

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

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



Dr Helen Paterson, Chief Executive
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 1
- 6)

Minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee held on 20 September 2023, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

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

NB Any member needing clarification must contact monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. Please

refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

And/or:

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

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

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly

available.

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

5. PETITIONS

This item is to:

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

6. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

(Pages 7
- 12)

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

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

The Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience Report 2023-24 will be included within this item which provides an overall update of the pre-season preparations ahead of the forthcoming winter services season

7. BEDLINGTON PLACE PLAN AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE

This item will provide an update from NCC Regeneration team on the development of a new Place Plan for Bedlington including Bedlington town centre and Bedlington Station. The Place Plan is a key step on the journey to accessing Borderlands funding to support the growth and renewal of the area including as part of the Borderlands Place Programme. As part of the presentation an update will be provided on progress with Bedlington's current town centre regeneration project being delivered by Advance Northumberland.

8. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages

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

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee is Wednesday 24 January 2024.

10. 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

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee** held at Seaton Sluice Community Centre, Albert Road, Seaton Sluice, NE26 4QX on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT

M Swinburn (Chair)

MEMBERS

L Bowman
E Chicken
W Daley
C Dunbar
P Ezhilchelvan

D Ferguson
S Lee
M Robinson
C Taylor
R Wilczek

OFFICERS

H Bowers
J Hedley

Democratic Services Officer
Family Help Locality Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector J Caisley
Acting Inspector P Davis

Neighbourhood Policing,
Cramlington and Seaton Valley area
Neighbourhood Policing, Bedlington
area

J Eltringham

Youth Co-ordinator, Cramlington
Town Council

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Flux.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee held on Wednesday, 23 August 2023 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

24. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors Daley, Dunbar, Ezhilchelvan, Lee and Swinburn declared an interest in agenda item 8 as they were members of Cramlington Town Council.

The Chair informed members of a change in the order of the agenda.

25. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A presentation was shared on anti-social behaviour in the Cramlington area. Inspector Jonathan Caisley provided the following information:

- 418 incidents of ASB had been reported in Cramlington in the past 12 months, equating to 8 reports per week.
- Motorcycle ASB had resulted in 265 calls to the Police in the past 12 months, equating to 5 reports per week.
- The main issue in Cramlington were people under the age of 18, causing ASB between 5 pm and 10 pm.
- Areas in ASB had changed from Brockwell to Manor Walks particularly Sainsburys entrance.
- Additional funding had been successful through the Violence Reduction Unit to pay for high visibility patrols in the hotspot areas of Cramlington.
- 17 young offenders had been referred to the Youth Justice Service 'Turnaround' scheme.
- 52 ASB letters had been sent to parents of young people involved in ASB and follow up visits conducted.
- 28 arrests of young people had committed crime in Cramlington; 2 Youth Injunctions were in the process of being applied for and 76 dispersal orders had been authorised to date.

In response to questions from members, the following information was provided:

- Police relied on community intelligence for any offences or crimes taking place.
- As well as funding from the Police & Crime Commission, the Violence Reduction Unit also received funding from the Home Office.
- A new NPT model helped the uplift in Neighbourhood Police Officers.
- If parents were unaware that children were involved in anti-social behaviour, once informed the issue was usually resolved. Repeat offenders distorted figures.

Acting Inspector Paul Davis continued with information in the Bedlington area:

- 118 incidents of ASB had been reported in Bedlington in the past 12 months.
- Motorcycle ASB had resulted in 173 calls within the last 12 months.
- Hotspots on the heatmap showed Bedlington and Bedlington Station.
- Section 59 warnings had been issued with one motorcycle being seized.
- CCTV covered Bedlington Station which had allowed officers to identify perpetrators and complete home visits in partnership with the Community Safety Team and Bernicia where applicable.
- 25 ASB letters had been sent to parents of young people involved in ASB.
- Follow up visits were conducted in conjunction with housing providers to discuss ASB and the impacts behaviour could have on tenancies.
- 1 Youth Injunction was in the process of being applied for.

In response to questions, the following information was provided:

- A private landlord would be contacted if a tenant was involved in ASB, but usually they were not interested.
- Again, if there were any incidents of ASB, the police relied on community intelligence.
- Following an incident of ASB, Police Officers would contact the Community Safety Team and if offending was persistent, a Community Order would be issued.

The Police Officers were thanked for their presentations.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

26. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received; there were no reports or updates to consider.

27. FAMILY HUB OFFER

Jean Hedley, Family Help Coordination Manager, shared a presentation which outlined the work of the Family Hubs.

The following information was provided:

- The Family Hubs had derived from the SureStart centres
- There were 11 purpose built Family Hubs in the central, southeast, west and north localities and 7 dedicated outreach points at fire stations, military bases and primary schools for more vulnerable families.

- Family Hub integration was key to establishing and embedding a culture and way on integrated working, bringing projects together from different disciplines and partner organisations.
- A plan had been developed to bring together colleagues from health, midwifery, public health and family hubs to network and share ideas involving a programme of locality workforce engagement events which were supported by senior management across all partners.
- Early help support requests were triaged in the Early Help Team sitting within the 'Front Door'.
- Information on the Family Hubs could be found on the Council's website.
- The Prevention and Intervention Pathway had been created as a means of having a consistent, science backed, evidence based offer for families.
- In response to Covid in 2020, the Prevention and Intervention Pathway had been delivered virtually.
- To extend the reach to all families, there had been significant investment into enhancing the digital offer to families to meet their needs.
- The Start for Life Offer on the Council's website had been accessed over 1000 times since March 2023.

In response to a comment on the offer for youth provision and a commitment across all ages in Northumberland, it was stated that a report would be presented to a joint FACs and Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny meeting on youth provision.

A member was pleased that Southeast Family Hubs were using Axminster Close, Community House as an outreach location as there was no Family Hub premises in Cramlington.

The officer was thanked for her presentation.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

28. CRAMLINGTON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TEAM

Joe Eltringham, Youth Co-ordinator, Cramlington Town Council shared a presentation on the support given to the community and youth.

The presentation included:

- An explanation of what the team did, eg, engagement in partnership work; investment into youth provision; giving young people advice.
- The framework which was based on Asset Based Community Development (A,B,C,D) allowed communities to drive the development process themselves.
- The networks created through A,B,C,D included Wild Spaces Hub, Heritage Hub, Youth Partnership, ADHD and Autism Network, Dementia Friendly Cramlington, ASB Partnership and Youth Council.

- Partnership working included Northumbria Police, Northumberland Fire and Rescue, Northumberland Family Hubs, Manor Walks, Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project, Youth Justice Service, CVS and various youth providers.
- Youth Provision – Cramlington Town Council had invested in 3 youth clubs across Cramlington – Youth Partnership, Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project and community centres which hosted youth clubs.
- Free school holiday activity had been provided over the summer holidays.
- Since March 2022, Cramlington Town Council had their own Youth Council.

Members commented on the following:

- The support Cramlington Town Council received for youth provision compared to West Bedlington Town Council. Mr Eltringham stated that the Town Council did not receive any support with the provision. There had previously been one Youth Worker designated to Cramlington who operated on a Thursday evening, however that had not been the case for some months.
- Good partnership working but more investment was required for other community groups in the county.
- The lack of accessibility with public transport in certain areas and the lack of youth provision in other areas of the county.
- The issue of the closure of the Youth Club at Seaton Delaval.

Councillor Daley stated that a report on Youth Services would be presented to FACs and a briefing note prepared for a future LAC meeting.

Mr Eltringham was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

29. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

30. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 18 October.

CHAIR

DATE

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Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience Report 2023-2024

The purpose of this report is to provide an overall update of the pre-season preparations ahead of the forthcoming winter services season.

Key Issues

The County Council undertakes its winter services activities to ensure, 'as far as is reasonably practicable' that the highway is maintained in a safe condition in accordance with our legal obligations under the Highways Act 1980. There has been no change to the service standards or winter maintenance policy since last winter. The Council is still treating the same lengths of road within the same agreed timeframes and meeting all of the Council's agreed policies and standards for winter services.

Background Staffing and Control of Operations, Highways and Transport

Winter Services are carried out by the Highways and Transport division. Kris Westerby, Highways Delivery Manager, has countywide responsibility for winter services, with Andy Olive, Area Highways Delivery Manager, acting as countywide operational lead.

All our primary and secondary routes remain unchanged from the 2022/23 season. Following the completion of previous contracts, the arrangements for additional support from agricultural contractors for dealing with snowfall and prolonged periods of extreme cold weather have been re-procured.

The delivery of the winter service overall requires 105 staff, including managers, supervisors, drivers and operatives. Staffing rotas are in place to ensure sufficient staffing resource is available on the three-shift rota. The majority of staff involved in winter services come from Highways, with a small number of drivers also coming from with Neighbourhood Services.

Highways have 3 Winter Service Delivery Managers (Russell Mason, Tony Bell and Andy Olive) who operate on a three-week rota (24/7) and whose job it is to consider the variable forecasting information and make a decision on the most appropriate course of action and what, if any, treatment is necessary based on the forecast information provided by our forecaster (Meteogroup) and bureau provider (Vaisala).

The Winter Service Delivery Managers then pass instructions on to the Winter Services Supervisors who manage the gritting operations. The Winter Services Supervisors also work on a rota basis with their shifts.

As you can imagine, this role can be very stressful and hectic at times. Members are, therefore, asked to only contact them directly in **an emergency situation**. All non-emergency situations should be reported through the Council's contact centre and the out of hours arrangements via Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service in the usual way and also Fix My Street.

Similarly, Members are requested **not to contact** Winter Services Supervisors out of hours as their rotas can change and officers not on call or on rest periods can be unnecessarily disturbed.

Weather Monitoring Arrangements are in place for the winter services manager to use the web based Vaisala weather system which collates all of our local weather station data.

This also give the Council direct access to regional forecasting information across neighbouring authorities. The Council has access through the MeteoGroup system and the Met office Hazard Manager for accurate weather data/forecasts.

Vaisala is a company who collect weather information from various sources including the Meteogroup and their own weather and road surface temperature monitoring equipment on site. They then run a large amount of weather models with this information to accurately predict weather conditions over the next 24 - 36 hrs using weather stations which are positioned around Northumberland.

This allows the Council to make informed decisions on road surface treatment. Forecasts are received on three occasions through the day to allow operational decisions to be made, with any change of forecast also notified to the Winter Services Delivery Manager at any time 24/7 so that changes to planned actions can be made as necessary.

All staff involved in Winter Services are available on mobile communication. This allows the teams to still ensure the operation is being conducted in an efficient and effective manner. Also, with our Exactrak system is vehicle hardware for specialist winter maintenance route management is an automated salt spreading technology across the Council's gritter fleet. This system that allows enhanced vehicle tracking, route management, automated navigation, automated gritting spread patterns, improved data collection and recording, and improved live monitoring of operations. This has improved the resilience of operations considerably as we will be able us deploy any driver with any gritter to any of the routes across Northumberland without them needing prior training on navigation and gritting spread patterns on the specific route being treated.

It also improves driver health and safety by automating the control of the spreading rate and patterns for the salt, so that they can focus on driving the vehicle in often very challenging weather conditions. This system is extremely valuable given the risks of potential driver absence due to seasonal illnesses and holiday cover.

Vehicles and Gritting Routes,

The fleet of 28 multi-purpose gritting vehicles with plough attachments have been serviced and prepared ahead of the winter so that all vehicles are on station by late October. In addition to the front line gritters, we also have 2 purposes built snowblowers for use in the high areas of the County to be deployed when conditions dictate, as well as a fleet of 4 gully tankers that are deployed throughout the County, which are available to assist should the need arise with flooding caused by rapid snow melt.

This coming season, we have 28 primary gritting routes. These routes are gritted regularly throughout the winter period in accordance with forecasts as a precaution against icing. In addition, we have 26 secondary gritting routes which are treated in more severe conditions and after the primary routes have been satisfactorily treated.

As part of the ongoing Fleet Replacement programme, we have taken delivery of nine state of the art Mercedes/Econ 6m³ and 9m³ capacity gritters over the last two seasons.

Fleet Services supply all the necessary expertise to keep the vehicle's operating at full capacity throughout the winter period. Four Hilltip spreaders and ploughs have been put in service and fitted to NCC 4x4 vehicles. These are placed across the operational areas and gives us another highly useful piece of equipment that can be deployed rapidly to some of the more difficult areas across the network. This will reduce demand on our gritting fleet and allow it to continue to be dedicated to the primary and secondary network during snow events.

Salt Management The operation is delivered from 10 manned or unmanned depots across Northumberland. Andy Olive has the responsibility for ordering and management of salt and will oversee the ordering, delivery, and ongoing monitoring of stock levels throughout the winter period for each depot assisted by the area-based Quantity Surveyors. As mentioned above our route optimisation software will also monitor exact salt use across the entire fleet and across the network. This will provide the most accurate salt usage data the Council has ever received.

At the end of last season (2022/23), we had 31,000T of salt in stock across Northumberland. This is being replenished in all of our main depots and we will have a starting stock of 44,000 tonnes at the commencement of winter. This includes our strategic reserve in Powburn which holds 6,000 tonnes to add to Northumberland's resilience levels.

Grit Bins/Heaps All grit bins and salt heaps throughout the County are currently being inspected and replenished as necessary. This includes removing litter etc and making sure the existing condition is to standard. The service supports an inventory of over 1,600 grit bins and over 1200 heaps. Each bin has a notice and serial number attached giving contact details so members of the public can report a bin or heap requiring a refill during the winter period via the website Fix My Street or the Councils call centre.

Whilst the majority of grit bins are bright yellow, you may notice some green grit bins. These bins have been provided by the town or parish council who remain responsible for their upkeep and replenishment although, in practice they generally ask NCC to carry out this service on their behalf on a rechargeable basis.

Customer Services can be contacted for all winter service emergency request. For additional gritting, grit bin replenishment and general enquiries please use NCC web site Fix My Street or our customer services teams on 0345 600 6400.

Winter services information contained on the NCC website is being reviewed and updated accordingly to accurately reflect our operations. There will also be ongoing

meetings between Highways and Transport division and Customer Services to ensure call handling procedures and internal communications are in place so that a joined-up service is delivered to the customer with one point of contact.

As with previous years, we will again be producing our customer information leaflet titled 'Highway Services in Winter', that provides useful information to the public on all aspects of the service. The leaflet, which includes when gritting will take place and on which roads and footpaths, as well as giving general advice on how-to drive in winter conditions, will be available by the end of November following a thorough review of the information it contains.

The document will be distributed to all County Councillors and Town and Parish Councils. Information on the website includes details of our policies and maps of our primary gritting routes, along with those showing our strategic footpath network which will be treated in severe conditions such as snow or heavy icing. Alerts are sent out daily during the winter using social media. This will advise people on weather conditions and our proposed response. This information is also made available on the Northumberland County Council website.

Additional Support for our Snow Clearing contract with local Farmers and sub-contractors to assist our operations by removing snow from the more remote roads in rural Northumberland.

We are conducting an audit of the equipment and its condition. This is ahead of the winter period and the exercise will be completed by the end of November early December 2023.

This contract has provided the farmers and sub-contractors with designated routes. This will ensure that we are clearing the area in the most efficient way we can during a snow event and not revisiting areas which have been cleared. The contractor's plant and equipment are intergraded into our new automated gritting system to allow the Council full visibility of resources during intense periods of weather.

The Council has still retained voluntary groups which we refer to as "snow squads" who help with snow clearing from footpaths in villages such as Wooler, Belford and Bamburgh; Hexham Town Council also aid with snow clearance. The offer to be included in the 'Snow Squads' will be rolled out again this winter.

All volunteers have been trained, equipped with tools, and supplied salt to assist the Council and clear local footpaths around the County keeping the County residents safe.

In addition, we rely on our colleagues from Neighbourhood Services to assist with snow clearing and gritting of key car parks and footpaths.

Cross Boundary Working Arrangements are in place with Newcastle City, Durham County Council, Cumbria County Council & Scottish Borders Council, Colas and Highways England to aid each other in periods of heavy snow, to ensure that the strategic routes such as the A69, A686 and A68 are kept clear as far as possible. It

should also be noted that the County Council supplies a management service to Newcastle City Council, whereby we decide when precautionary salting is needed across their administrative area as well as in Northumberland and provided under a contractual arrangement and generates added income for the County Council, which helps protect front line services from budget cuts.

Severe Weather Procedures During heavy snow conditions, it is normal for a “snow room” to be set up to coordinate our response to ensure efficient service delivery on the ground. Also, if required due to the severity of the event we will open the incident support room and work alongside the civil contingencies team and all emergency services within the area. Winter Storms/ Flooding Staff on the Winter Service rota will respond to precautionary gritting and winter events as normal. Where applicable and when the weather dictates, they will also respond to flooding issues supporting the existing Out of Hours rota in anything above and beyond the normal response levels. The authority receives severe weather warnings many days in advance from several sources including the Met Office Hazard Manager. This gives us the ability to track storms and plan resources around the potential impact

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Northumberland County Council

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

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Heather Bowers: 07873 700 976 - Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk

UPDATED: 14 November 2023

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Agenda Item 8

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

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

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

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

To be listed:

Newcastle Airport

Invite to Parish and Town Clerks – January

Fix My Street - January

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

19 July 2023

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

~~23~~ August 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

~~20~~ September 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way
- Family Hub Offer
- Northumbria Police
- Cramlington Town Council Youth Community Team

18 October 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

22 November 2023

- Winter Services Update
- Budget Discussion
- Bedlington Place Plan and Town Centre

20 December 2023

- Planning and Rights of Way

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

Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
19.07.23	Community Chest Grants Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	
Page 18	Update on Domestic Abuse	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	
Page 18	Local Bus Board	RESOLVED that Councillor Swinburn be appointed to represent Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee on the Northumberland Local Bus Board.	The Systra Pinch Point survey would be forwarded to the Democratic Services Officer to circulate to members of the local area committee in due course.
	Outside Bodies	RESOLVED that the list of appointments be confirmed.	
23.08.23	Planning applications		
20.09.23	Anti-Social Behaviour	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	

	Family Hub Offer	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	
	Cramlington Youth & Community Team	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	

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