



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Little

Email: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Friday 8 March 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL** on **MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2024** at **5.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

To Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee members as follows:-

D Bawn, J Beynon, L Darwin, S Dickinson, R Dodd, L Dunn, J Foster, P Jackson, V Jones, M Murphy, G Sanderson, D Towns and R Wearmouth



Dr Helen Paterson, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
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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
- 4)

The minutes of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee held on Monday 12 February 2024, as circulated, to be agreed as a true record and be 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 have been submitted 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. (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

(a) Receive any new petitions:

This item is to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner handing in a petition at the meeting is entitled to briefly introduce their petition, and a response to any petitions received will then be organised for a future meeting.

(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received: None received

(c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered: any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

6. RURAL BUSINESS FUNDING PROGRAMMES

To receive a presentation from Ivan Hewitt, Rural Business Growth Programme Manager on two Business Funding Programmes which are available in the rural community.

7. TRANSITION FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL LANDLINES

John Cooper, Strategic Programmes Manager, Digital and IT, will give a presentation on the transition from analogue to digital landlines by Openreach and to address concerns around resilience in the event of power cuts and/or major storms.

8. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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).

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- 10)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 6.00 pm. The venue is still to be confirmed.

10. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

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.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee** held at Council Chamber - County Hall on Monday, 12 February 2024 at 4.40 pm.

PRESENT

J Beynon (Chair) (in the Chair)

MEMBERS

R Dodd
J Foster
G Sanderson
R Wearmouth

L Dunn
M Murphy
D Towns

OFFICERS

L Little
R McCartney
McKenzie

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Highways Infrastructure Manager
Senior Highways Officer, Highways
Improvement

Around 3 members of the press and public were present.

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darwin, Dickinson and Jones.

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday 15 January 2024, as circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

20 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME AND HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE INVESTMENT IN U AND C ROADS AND FOOTWAYS PROGRAMME 2024-25

The report set out the details of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Highway Maintenance Investment in U and C roads and footways programmes for 2024-25. Final approval of the programme would be made by the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Improving our Roads and Highways taking into consideration the actual level of funding

received from Department of Transport (DfT) and feedback from the Local Area Committees.

R McKenzie, Senior Programme Officer (Highways Improvements) provided an introduction to the report advising that the draft LTP programme for 2024-25 was based on a settlement from the DfT from which a sum would be retained by the North East Joint Transport Committee to cover central transport costs. The Council had therefore developed a £26,193,624 LTP programme which consisted of improvements and maintenance schemes over the four key areas of sustainable transport; safety; roads; and bridges, structures and landslips. The full details of the draft programme were set out in Appendices A to D of the report. The Council was also intending to carry out an additional £4,450,000 of highway maintenance investment in U and C roads and Footways programme utilising Council's capital funding with the details set out in Appendix E. The funding for the programme would be subject to approval of the Council's Capital Programme at the County Council meeting on 21 February 2024.

Information would be provided in response to Councillor Foster query on what works would be carried out for the £40,000 which had been identified for Stakeford Crescent in Appendix E.

Councillor Dodd was advised that it was too early to identify a timescale in respect of the work to be undertaken on the A696 in Belsay however he would be notified once the timing had been agreed.

Councillor Sanderson stated that all Councils were facing the same challenges due to roads not being constructed for the types and number of vehicles which were now using the network and the impact of the weather on surfaces. He advised that the Administration would continue to fund and fight against potholes. In response to his query regarding the £449,000 identified for highway maintenance and advance design it was clarified that this was for Council staff to undertake preliminary design and testing in advance in order to be ready for each programme.

Councillor Murphy was advised that the exact allocation from the £100,000 identified for safety schemes for the scheme within her ward was not known as it would depend on the outcome of discussions on the requirements.

In relation to the research into better methods of repairing potholes it was confirmed that pilot schemes were undertaken, and laboratory testing continued on different types of fillings as part of the normal programme of work. A report had already been provided on the pilot scheme in the North of the County. Councillor Sanderson advised that additional funding had been included in the budget if this was agreed by Council. He stated that roads were worse in some other areas of the Country and that this Administration were determined to address the problem in this County for the roads they had responsibility for. Members were also informed that whilst it was preferable to do a patch repair, this was not always possible due to the need to act quickly and make repairs within 24 hours in some instances and also the suitability of the structure of the road itself.

Councillor Dunn queried the provision of a pedestrian crossing close to the shop in Ellington to address worrying safety concerns, and also the works to the

footpath on the bridge on the U405 which were supposed to have been included in the programme. It was confirmed that the footpath works were due to be started and the pedestrian crossing had also already been looked at.

In response to a question from Councillor Towns related to the trial of and future use of recycled plastic in the binding for the resurfacing of roads, the Committee was advised that a report was being prepared on this. The query in relation to the extension of the 30mph limit from the school to cover the entrance to the new estate within his Ward would be fed back to officers for a response.

RESOLVED that the information provided and comments made by Members be noted.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

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**Northumberland County Council
Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee
Work Programme 2023-2024**

Lesley Little: 01670 622614 - Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

UPDATED: 8 March 2024

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, petitions.

To be listed:

<p>Northumberland County Council Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee Work Programme 2023-24</p>

18 March 2024	
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|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decommissioning of analogue telephone lines • Update on Funding Programmes |
|--|---|

20 May 2024	
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- | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance by Community Chest Grant recipients |
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**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - CASTLE MORPETH MONITORING REPORT
2023-24**

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	15.05.23	Petitions – Island outside Blossom Park, Pegswood	RESOLVED that the actions proposed to be undertaken as set out in the report be accepted.	
Page 8	15.05.23	Updates on Petitions previously received – On-going Planning Issues and Environmental Destruction on land to the South of St Mary’s Park, Stannington.	RESOLVED that the proposed actions set out in the report be accepted and it be noted that Planning Officers were proactively monitoring the site.	
3	10.07.23	Petition Report - Address Speeding Between Jameson Estate (Old Police Hq Site) and Grange Lea Care Home on North Road, Ponteland	RESOLVED that the information be noted and that the actions being proposed be supported with the Police being asked to attend a future meeting.	

4	10.07.23	Presentation from Collingwood School	N/A															
5	10.07.23	Northumberland Local Bus Board	RESOLVED that M Murphy be appointed as the representative from this Local Area Committee on the Northumberland Local Bus Board subject to satisfactory discussion regarding the commitment of time required.															
6	10.07.23	Appointments to Outside Bodies	<p>RESOLVED that the appointments be confirmed as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Choppington Education Foundation</td> <td>Mary Murphy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Druridge Bay Regeneration Partnership</td> <td>Scott Dickinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friends of Morpeth Museum</td> <td>David Bawn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater Morpeth Development Trust</td> <td>Richard Wearmouth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linton Village Hall Management Committee</td> <td>Liz Dunn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lynemouth Welfare Management Committee</td> <td>Liz Dunn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stakeford/Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre</td> <td>Julie Foster Mary Murphy</td> </tr> </table>	Choppington Education Foundation	Mary Murphy	Druridge Bay Regeneration Partnership	Scott Dickinson	Friends of Morpeth Museum	David Bawn	Greater Morpeth Development Trust	Richard Wearmouth	Linton Village Hall Management Committee	Liz Dunn	Lynemouth Welfare Management Committee	Liz Dunn	Stakeford/Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre	Julie Foster Mary Murphy	
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7	11.09.23	Petition Report – On-going planning issues and unfinished works on the Nursery Gardens Site, Stannington Station	RESOLVED that a Breach of Condition Notice be issued to the developer.															
8	11.09.23	Presentation by the Toby Henderson Trust	N/A															
9	13.11.23	Winter Services Preparations – for information only	N/A															

10	13.11.23	Presentation on "Fix my Street"	N/A	
11	13.11.23	Presentation by Morpeth Lions	N/A	
12	13.11.23	Presentation by Choppington Disability Group	N/A	
13	15.01.23	Northumbria Police	N/A	
13	15.01.23	Presentation on the Budget	N/A	
14	12.02.23	Draft Local Transport Plan	RESOLVED that the information provided and comments made by Members be noted.	