



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Nichola Turnbull

Email: nichola.turnbull@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622617

Date: Monday, 11 March 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in **CEREMONY ROOM - HEXHAM HOUSE** on **TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024** at **6.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson
Chief Executive

To Tynedale Local Area Committee members as follows:-

T Cessford (Chair), H Waddell (Vice-Chair), S Fairless-Aitken (Vice-Chair (Planning)), A Dale, C Horncastle, JI Hutchinson, D Kennedy, N Morphet, N Oliver, J Riddle, A Scott, A Sharp and G Stewart



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 - 4)

Minutes of the meeting of the Tynedale Local Area Committee, held on 13 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. 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:** (none).
- c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

6. COMMUNITY CHEST PRESENTATIONS

Recipients of Community Chest Grants in the Tynedale area will give a short presentation to the committee explaining how the grant has helped their business or charity.

7. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Inspector Kate Benson (Neighbourhood Policing (Rural)) will be in attendance to provide an update on policing within the Tynedale area and answer questions from Members.

8. 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.

9. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages
5 - 12)

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).

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 21 May 2024.

11. 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.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Tynedale Local Area Council** held at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NH on Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor T Cessford
(Chair), in the Chair)

MEMBERS

A Dale
SH Fairless-Aitken
I Hutchinson
D Kennedy
N Morphet

JR Riddle
A Sharp
G Stewart
H Waddell

OFFICERS

R McCartney
N Snowdon

N Turnbull

Infrastructure Manager
Principal Programme Officer
(Highways Improvement)
Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT

1 member of the press and 1 member of the public.

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Horncastle, Oliver and Scott.

43. MINUTES

In answer to a question, it was confirmed that a report on the Petition 'A68 Safety Improvements' was expected to be considered at the meeting on 21 May 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meeting of the Tynedale Local Area Council, held on 16 January 2024, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Ch.'s Initials.....

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

The Local Area Council received a report which set out the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Highway Maintenance Investment in U and C Roads and Footways programmes for 2024-25 for consideration and comment prior to final approval of the programme by the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Improving Our Roads and Highways. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes).

A further copy of the appendices had been circulated electronically and a paper copy provided at the meeting as some information at the top and bottom of page 15 had not been visible when the papers had originally been circulated.

The Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement) stated that the budget was based on a settlement from the Department of Transport of £26,256,124 assuming a similar allocation to the previous year. He provided a breakdown of the different elements. A sum of £62,500 was to be retained by the North East Joint Transport Committee to cover central support costs.

Appendices A – D contained details of the proposed schemes across 4 main areas: sustainable transport, safety, roads and bridges, structures and landslips. Appendix E contained details of a proposed additional £4.45 million for maintenance for U and C classified roads and footways categorised by local area committee. The latter was subject to approval by the County Council on 21 February 2024.

The following comments and queries were raised by members:

- A sum of money had been allocated for road widening on the C254 at Fellhouse Fell with the work being carried out in phases across several financial years. The second phase had not yet been carried out and was not showing in the schedule. The officers agreed to check whether the money for this scheme had been ring fenced and carried over to 2024/25.
- Clarification of the location of the pavement work on Hencotes, Hexham.
- Whilst a similar level of funding for 2024/25 was proposed to 2023/24, with inflationary costs, this would be significantly less in real terms reducing the amount of work able to be undertaken by the Council.
- Concern that the Council had insufficient funds to repair and maintain the highway. It was acknowledged that it had been a particularly wet winter which was having a significant impact on rural roads, particularly in locations with steep inclines. Water on the highway was detrimental to the surface when it froze, lifting the surface and resulting in potholes. The maintenance programme needed to be increased to clear ditches, repair gulleys and more lasting repairs of potholes. Provision for more gully

wagons, street cleaners and manpower were required. These comments were repeated by several members.

- With the recent changes to the Highways Code in 2022 giving priority to vulnerable road users, whether the LTP programme was doing enough to make street design adequately reflect the new 'hierarchy of the road', and in particular whether schemes could incorporate continuous footways. Reference was made to the footway maintenance scheme on the B6531 Leazes Crescent and Burnland Terrace, Hexham. The Infrastructure Manager agreed to check this with the Design Team.
- Recent schemes had been helpful to slow traffic in the vicinity of the Queen Elizabeth High School and an enquiry made whether any other measures were proposed. It was confirmed that a draft report had recently been sent to the Headteacher and would be subject to further consultation with other interested parties. This would be shared with Councillors as soon as appropriate.
- The LTP prioritisation process be shared with all members.
- Reprioritisation of schemes following bad weather and road deterioration could be negotiated (if one road suddenly became significantly worse than another) if the preparatory works, such as design and road surveys had been undertaken. This would be checked for Adderlane Road, Prudhoe.
- The Fix My Street presentation by the Highways Delivery Manager at a meeting of Hexham Town Council had been extremely helpful and well received.
- The policy for pothole repair versus road resurfacing was not determined by the number of potholes, but if there was a failure of the structural integrity of the road surface. Regular safety inspections meant that potholes on main roads were repaired within 24 hours. Fix My Street and the Horizon system would enable better oversight and management of the highway and the type of repair likely to be required.
- Basic maintenance of gully and ditches was essential. It was queried whether the regular programme was being followed. It was acknowledged that resource was diverted when the Council needed to respond to adverse weather and reactive maintenance. Given the size of the area, it took time for the equipment to get around the route.
- The quality of repairs by contractors be closely managed to ensure they lasted more than a few days. Failure of resurfacing work within 12 months should be investigated and followed up.
- Clarification on the safety scheme proposed for Radcliffe Road, Haydon Bridge be provided to the local member.
- More revenue funding was required in addition to capital funding.
- It was understood there was insufficient resource within the Rights of Way section to plan new routes following landslips.

Councillor Riddle, Cabinet Member for Improving Our Roads and Highways, stated that in addition to the £4.45 million proposed for the investment in U and C Roads and Footways, County Council was also being requested to approve an additional £5.77 million which would increase the total highways budget for 2024/25 to circa £36 million. If approved, this would be allocated as

fairly as possible. The impact of the wet winter weather and significant storms could not be underestimated.

He added that during 2024/25 it was proposed that Area Highway Managers be given flexibility to undertake more permanent repairs of the highway. Also, information had been requested regarding the hours the gulley wagons were in use on planned versus reactive maintenance and whether use of the equipment could be maximised with perhaps the implementation of an additional shift. It was acknowledged that the drivers of the gulley wagons were also likely to be included in the winter services rota. It was noted that the gulley wagons could not clear gulleys during snow events. The Council had to maximise use of the workforce and equipment which was why some vehicles were interchangeable.

The Infrastructure Manager reported that there were 96,000 gulleys in the county with 17,800 in the Tynedale area.

Some areas had been allocated more funding than others and had resulted in a few members expressing their disappointment on the number of schemes within their wards for the 2024/25 programme.

RESOLVED that:

- a. The report be received and noted.
- b. Members' comments be considered in the finalisation of the LTP Programme and additional £4.45 million for the Highway Maintenance Investment in U and C Roads and Footways programme for 2024-25 by the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Improving Our roads and Highways.

45. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 6.00 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Northumberland County Council
Tynedale Local Area Committee
Work Programme 2023 - 2024

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Nichola Turnbull: 01670 622617 - Nichola.Turnbull@northumberland.gov.uk

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) 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.
- (2) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (9) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (10) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (11) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.
- (12) 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:

Northumberland County Council
Tynedale Local Area Committee
Work Programme 2023-24

19 March 2024

- Decommissioning of Analogue Telephone Lines
- Policing Update
- Community Chest Recipients

21 May 2024

- *Local Services Update (TBC)*
- Fostering Presentation
- Borderlands Update
- *Other items to be confirmed*

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Northumberland County Council
Tynedale Local Area Committee Monitoring Report 2023-2024

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Updates (if any)
1	11 July 2023	Petition Report - Request for Additional Traffic Calming Measures at Woodlands, Hexham	RESOLVED that: 1. The contents of the report be noted. 2. A further speed survey be carried out in the 20mph section, west of Woodlands. 3. Speeding concerns continue to be monitored in the area.	Additional speed surveys reported to meeting on 21 November 2023.
2	11 July 2023	Northumberland Local Bus Board	RESOLVED that Councillor Riddle be nominated to act as the Tynedale Local Area Committee's representative on the Northumberland Local Bus Board.	
3	11 July 2023	Outside Bodies	RESOLVED that the following list of appointments be confirmed: Groundwork North East - Land of Oak and Iron Project Board – G Stewart Haltwhistle Partnership Limited - A Sharp Haltwhistle Swimming & Leisure Centre Man. Cttee - A Sharp Hexham TORCH Centre Management Committee - T Cessford Prudhoe Community Partnership – A Scott	

			Queens Hall Arts Trust – SH Fairless-Aitken Sport Tynedale – N Oliver Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership Board – HR Waddell	
4	12 September 2023	Petition Report - The Falcon Centre Wylam	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The petition requesting support for the efforts of the Falcon Centre Action Group (FCAG) to secure the future of the Falcon Centre as a community hub, be received. 2. The potential of FCAG to take on the Falcon Centre as a building to develop as a community hub, be noted. 3. The issues raised in the petition by Wylam residents, their wish to see FCAG supported in their work to take on and develop the Falcon Centre as a community hub, be noted. 4. The ongoing work of NCC staff to support the FCAG, be noted. 5. The commitment that a library offer will be maintained within Wylam, be noted. 6. Given the time that the FCAG have already had to develop a proposal, in the best interests of the service and the building, other options for the future use of the building, in parallel with any proposal FCAG put forward, should be explored. 	
5	12 September 2023	The Tanga Club	RESOLVED that information be received.	

6	21 November 2023	Petition Report - Request for Additional Traffic Calming Measures at Woodlands, Hexham	RESOLVED that: 1. The update and results of the additional speed surveys be noted. 2. Speeding concerns in the area continue to be monitored by officers in Highways. 3. A response be obtained from the Neighbourhood Inspector / Northumbria Police's Road Safety Unit. 4. An update on the Hexham / Corbridge Active Travel Scheme be reported to the committee.	
7	21 November 2023	Fix My Street	RESOLVED that the presentation be received.	
8	21 November 2023	Winter Preparedness and Resilience	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	
10	16 January 2024	Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan	RESOLVED that the presentation be received.	

9	16 January 2024	Update on Funding Programmes (Rural Asset Multiplier Pilot Programme (RAMP) & Northumberland Small Business Service (NSBS))	RESOLVED that the presentations be received.	
11	13 February 2024	Draft Local Transport Plan	RESOLVED that: a. The report be received and noted. b. Members' comments be considered in the finalisation of the LTP Programme and additional £4.45 million for the Highway Maintenance Investment in U and C Roads and Footways programme for 2024-25 by the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Improving Our roads and Highways.	

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