



# Northumberland

## County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Heather Bowers

**Email:**

Heather.Bowers@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** 07873 700 976

**Date:** Tuesday, 17 September 2024

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 **EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, 16 & 17 STATION ROAD, BEDLINGTON, NE22 7JN** on **WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2024** at **6.00 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, P Ezhilchelvan, D Ferguson, B Flux, S Lee (Vice-Chair), M Robinson, A Smith, 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  
11 - 26)

The minutes of the Cramlington Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committees held on Wednesday 29 May and Wednesday 24 July respectively, 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;

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.

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.

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.

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.

Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registrable Interest or Non Registrable 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](mailto: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 meeting 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.**
- c. **Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

## **6. NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

A representative from Newcastle International Airport will be in attendance to explain the changing ways of the airport as a partner and how they are progressing with environmental demands and customer needs.

## **7. LEASEHOLD AND REFORM ACT**

Paul Reynolds, Renown Estates Agents will be in attendance to give an update on the The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act which came into force on 24 July 2024.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages  
27 - 32)

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 Local Area Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 23 October.

The next Local Area Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27

November.

**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.

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>			
<b>Item to which your interest relates:</b>			
<b>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):</b>			
<b>Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?</b>		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
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
<b>Sponsorship</b>	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.
<b>Contracts</b>	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.
<b>Land and Property</b>	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.
<b>Licenses</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	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.
<b>Securities</b>	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"> <li>i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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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 in Seaton Sluice Community Centre, Albert Road, Seaton Sluice, NE26 4QX on Wednesday 30 May 2024 at 6:00 pm.

#### PRESENT

M Swinburn (Chair)

#### MEMBERS

L Bowman  
E Chicken  
W Daley  
C Dunbar  
D Ferguson

B Flux  
S Lee  
M Robinson  
C Taylor

#### OFFICERS

H Bowers  
J Cooper  
R Strettle

Democratic Services Officer  
Strategic Programmes Manager  
Interim Senior Regeneration Manager

#### ALSO PRESENT

A Mowbray

Director of Projects, Advance Northumberland

Public: 4

#### 01. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reminded members of the pre-election period guidelines and restrictions on political publicity.

#### 02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wilczek.

### 03. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record, and be signed by the Chair.

### 04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Hogg, West Bedlington Town Council asked for a response raised at the last meeting in relation to the 20 mph speeds signs on the B1331.

This would be followed up.

### 05. PETITION

#### **Call for Bedlington to receive similar levels of investment as neighbouring towns**

Adam Hogg was in attendance and spoke on behalf of Mr Fox who was unable to attend the meeting.

The key points referred to were as follows: -

- The fifth paragraph of the report in relation to NCC (Northumberland County Council) direct response - Since 2009 at the end of Wansbeck District Council, there had been repeated calls for direct interventions in the upgrade of Bedlington Town Centre from both Tesco and a petition calling for NCC to purchase the site after Tesco's closure which had been presented to the former South East Area Committee, 9 years ago by Adam Hogg.
- The new Northumberland Line including a station at Bedlington had been talked about for many years and yet Bedlington was last to see a station. There had been excuses that the station building was in the way, signalling issues, etc.
- Cycling, walking and wheeling improvements in the town had been done by Sustrans under Wansbeck District Council. NCC was mostly following the existing routes which were not in a poor state.
- Direct investment in the town was supported by a wider programme in the county featuring new schools. Residents had been told time and again that faith schools and academies were not NCC's responsibility and could not get involved, such as unsafe ways of entering schools, i.e. St Benet Biscop, so how was NCC responsible for upgrading those schools?
- Leisure facilities – NCC demolished Bedlington's last leisure facility in the form of the swimming baths at St Benet Biscop's without any discussion with the public, if there were any other leisure facilities apart from the country park, residents would be interested to know what they were.

- Most of Bedlington's population worked outside of the town due to NCC decisions, such as the closure of Bedlington Council offices which had been the biggest employer in the town, with no alternatives provided.
- All public toilets in Bedlington had been closed by NCC without discussion. Bedlington had always had free parking since the days of Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council and the library had been reduced to accommodate a chemist.
- Residents were fed up with NCC finding money for Ashington, Blyth, Ponteland, Hexham, Berwick, Morpeth, Cramlington and other areas while Bedlington only seemed to get housing estates for more people to do nothing in the town and told they were within distance of other town's provisions.
- Since 2016, NCC had gained £5,065,250 on land sales in Bedlington, yet the value of those land sales had not been reinvested in the town.
- He summarised that residents of Bedlington felt they were a forgotten town and had been for many years, which was demonstrated when Councillor Sanderson attended a meeting and faced emotional and angry residents due to the lack of investment.
- Residents were asking to be treated in the same way as other towns who seemed to ask for money and get it, it was not a matter of special treatment, but fairness.

Rob Strettle, Interim Senior Regeneration Manager and Andrew Mowbray, Director of Projects, Advance Northumberland were in attendance to respond.

Mr Strettle reported that the Petition had been considered and that the Council was investing in a range of services and improvements to the town including:

East and West Bedlington which included the new Northumberland Line, Northumberland Energy Park, Bedlington Town Centre and a number of other investments. Mr Strettle understood the frustration of the length of time taken for the line to be reopened but reiterated this is a huge and complex construction project which is well underway and will be opening with major benefits for the town.

The Northumberland Energy Park would bring thousands of jobs to the area and the new Northumberland Line station at Bedlington Station would bring passenger services back to the town. £7m investment in the new cycling, walking and wheeling corridor would improve connectivity, which would get underway late 2024. £5.8m has been invested in educational facilities in the town and leisure amenity investment includes significant improvements to country parks.

A lot of investment was taking place in south-east Northumberland overall and the Council was working with local partners to develop future projects through the Borderlands Place Programme.

Members made the following comments: -

- The response to the petition did not answer the questions raised.
- Whilst there had been some investment from NCC, the majority had come from other companies, e.g. Northumberland Energy Park

- Disappointment at the response to the petition. Questions had been raised at full Council last year and the Leader had stated that over £48m would be invested in the town. Whilst there was going to be some investment it was not a question of what was wanted, but what was needed.
- There was no infrastructure in Bedlington, e.g. doctors, dentists, and leisure centres.
- The walking and cycling route had been reduced from £9m to £7m.
- The strategic issues with the land at Bedlington station should have been picked up at the surveying stage.

In response to members' comments, Mr Strettle stated that balanced information had been put forward as to how the Council could make Bedlington a better place using both council funding and attracting investment to the town from other public, private and community sources. The Strategic Transport Scheme was required to be carried out in stages. In terms of the Northumberland Line, the queries and questions would be taken back.

A clear business plan is required to develop further projects as part of the Borderlands Initiative, and some study work would take place this year with marketing, followed by a mapping process to identify potential further projects to improve the town centre.

New opportunities could also be created with the new Combined Authority and the £10m provided from the previous Combined Authority to support the Northumberland Line Economic Corridor is a good example. These opportunities will be developed in the next phase and subject to allocations from National Government.

**RESOLVED** that the petition be received, and the Council's reply be noted.

## **07. NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Members were informed that this item had been deferred to a future meeting.

## **08. TRANSITION FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL LANDLINES**

J Cooper - Strategic Programmes Manager was in attendance to provide a presentation on the transition from analogue to digital landlines. Presentation attached to the signed minutes, uploaded to the Council's website, and share with members of the committee.

Members were informed that the switchover would only impact users with a landline telephone and for the majority of those, the transition would be straightforward. Work was underway in the telecoms industry to try and mitigate the risks with power cuts by adding resilience within the network structure by adding backup generators at relay sites or mobile phone masts.

Northumberland County Council was not directly involved in the industry led programme but had taken the decision to raise awareness with Northumberland's residents, businesses and community groups and signpost those with concerns to the relevant organisation for support. The Council did not have access to switchover plans and timescales and did not know when individuals would be switched across but had raised awareness with activities including adding flyers to council tax bills, attending Local Area Committee and Parish Council meetings when requested, engaging with stakeholders with a role in community resilience and working with BT to support regional roadshow campaign.

In response to members' comments, Mr Cooper stated that no additional costs would be involved, and equipment would be free of charge to vulnerable or land line dependent users. Existing telephone numbers could be ported across, and numbers should be able to be retained.

Maps with wards which identified vulnerable people relating to the broadband coverage were requested by Councillor Robinson.

A supplier could install additional extension lines, but hybrid telephones were now being installed however, installation could be delayed if wanted.

Mr Cooper would provide a Comms link from the website via Democratic Services for members.

Members thanked Mr Cooper for the presentation and for attending.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

## 09. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members considered the list of appointments to outside bodies for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED** that the following list of appointments be confirmed but to query whether NCC representation was required for Cramlington Community Association and Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project.

Astley Park Management Committee	L Bowman
Beaconhill Community Association	B Flux
Cramlington Community Association	M Swinburn
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	B Flux W Daley
East Hartford (and District) Community Association	B Flux
New Hartley Community Association	D Ferguson

**10. WORK PROGRAMME:**

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 24 July 2024.

**CHAIR** .....

**DATE** .....



**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 Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT**

M Swinburn (Chair)

**MEMBERS**

L Bowman  
E Chicken

M Robinson  
R Wilczek

**OFFICERS**

L Bewick  
H Bowers  
R Mason  
A Peadon

Library Supervisor  
Democratic Services Officer  
Highways Delivery Area Manager  
Library Service Manager

**ALSO PRESENT**

C Ashworth  
A Fellows

Northumberland CAB

A Madjin  
D Beattie

Samatha's Legacy

Public: 5

**12. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reminded members of the pre-election period guidelines and restrictions on political publicity.

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daley, Ferguson, Flux, Lee, and Taylor.

## 14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Joanne Hogg, Bedlington

Referred to the removal of trees for the cycle route on the B1331 and why no information had been provided.

Councillor Robinson explained that he had requested details at the public consultation and that no information had been received. The Chair stated that this would be taken forward and information requested from the Leader.

R Hogg, North Ridge, Bedlington

At a meeting in December, the Leader had stated that safety measures and traffic calming would be installed. As yet, there were no signage measures. Members were informed that planning had been approved for the signs and were waiting to be installed. After that, any speeding would be the responsibility of the police.

A Hogg, Bedlington

At the last meeting he had spoken on behalf of a resident who had submitted a petition and was disappointed that there had been no response to issues raised and queried whether there was a resource issue, or if issues were being ignored.

Members discussed the issue and stated that lack of communication needed to be raised. The Chair stated that he would contact the Leader/Deputy Leader to see if there were ways communication could be improved.

A request was also put forward for the Chair to consider a public meeting in Bedlington for LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans).

## 15. LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

The following updates were given on Neighbourhood Services:

### **NEAT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

#### **Grass Cutting**

- A wet start to the grass cutting season with saturated ground conditions prevented the teams commencing their respective programmes earlier which had hoped to begin mid-March.
- The teams were able to commence these programmes, although later than hoped, and continued to do so.
- The programmes, since they commenced, had been interrupted due to a number of rain weather events. However, teams had been undertaking weekend work to compensate for some of the lost days.

- Target number of cuts for this season were again 10 to 13 in Cramlington and Bedlington, 16 to 20 in Seaton Valley currently on cut 5 in Bedlington and Cramlington and cut 8 in Seaton Valley.

### **Weed Control**

- The wet start to the season, combined with almost perfect growing conditions (warm and wet) for weed growth, had impacted on this too with a challenge across the county and in the region.
- The application of chemical treatments was even more dependent on weather conditions than grass cutting. Excessive wet weather conditions, and weather forecasts had to be considered, as windy conditions could affect treatments as the treatment could be ineffective or even drift into / onto areas that should not be treated.
- The respective teams had been treating their areas and deploying mechanical removal methods to remove weed growth.
- Four additional agency workers had been recruited to support across the LAC area. The agency workers had been deployed to work with existing teams to physically remove weeds.

### **Street Sweeping**

- Mechanical sweepers continued to be deployed across their respective areas. As they become older, a number of mechanical challenges were faced in keeping them on the road.
- Working with colleagues in the transport section.
- Please bring any areas in need of sweeping to our attention.

### **Bereavement Services**

- The dedicated team in BS were working well.
- The crematorium was working well, and any programmed maintenance had been undertaken and any unexpected maintenance arranged as soon as possible.

### **WASTE SERVICES**

- Other than a few minor vehicle breakdowns, staffing shortages, residual, recycling, and garden waste collection services were all operating well.
- Garden Waste collections had resumed and were also operating well.
- Teams would continue to review existing collection rounds to cope with ongoing housing growth as well as continued growth in take up of the garden waste service.

Members to email Tony Gribbin with any issues.

Russell Mason, Area Highways Manager provided the following updates:

- Highways Inspectors and response gangs continued inspecting and fixing carriageway/footway defects, with all planned routine inspections currently up to date.
- The Gully emptier had been fully deployed and was dealing with reactive maintenance. Support was hired in when needed.

**Larger Tarmac Patching had been carried out in the following locations:**

- Dudley Lane, Cramlington
- Cornhill Road, Cramlington
- Westmorland Way, Cramlington
- Palace Road, Bedlington
- Fontburn Road, S. Delaval (flag to flex)
- Westlands, S. Sluice (flag to flex)
- Front Street, Seghill
- Ancroft Road, S. Delaval
- Park Road, S. Delaval
- Western Avenue, S. Delaval
- Debdon Place, Cramlington (flag to flex)
- Weldon Road, Cramlington
- Briardale, Bedlington
- Double Row, New Hartley
- Burt Road, Bedlington

**Drainage Improvements:**

- A1068 Portland Terrace (drainage- Clearing/ Surveying lines)
- A1171 Station Road- Hubbway (renew gullies/ clear lines)
- A1171 Azure Garden Centre (renew gullies/ install new line)
- B1505 Cramlington Shankhouse Community Centre (renew gully/ install new catchpit)
- Newburgh Av, Seaton Delaval (install Acos)
- Alexandra Park, Cramlington (verge works/ drainage)
- B1505 near sea view villas (footpath scrape back)
- A192 Keel Row (ditching work)
- Palace Road, Bedlington (carriageway depression)
- Sheldon Grove, Cramlington (install Acos/ new gullies)
- Wheatridge, Seaton Delaval (install new field drain)

**Upcoming Drainage**

- Arcot Lane, Cramlington (trial pits ongoing. Drainage work in the programme following trial pits)
- Deneside, Seghill (drainage- flooding issues)
- Portland Gardens, Cramlington (drainage- flooding issues)
- A1147 Bedlington – (Gully to renew)

## **LTP - Carriageway Resurfacing**

LTP Carriageway Resurfacing schemes had been carried out in the following locations:

- Church Avenue, Sleekburn. - Completed
- Avon Court, New Hartley. - Completed
- Elwin Close, Seaton Sluice – Completed

## **Upcoming LTP Resurfacing works**

- A192 Holywell – Programmed for 29th July for 6 consecutive nights, 20:00 – 06:00
- Seghill Level Crossing – Programmed for 8<sup>th</sup> August for 5 consecutive nights, 20:00 – 06:00
- A1068 Snowy Owl – Programmed for 19<sup>th</sup> August for 2 nights, 20:00 – 06:00
- A1068 Fisher Lane – Programmed for 2<sup>nd</sup> August for 5 consecutive nights, 20:00 – 06:00
- Low Main Place, civils work programmed for 21<sup>st</sup> August for 2 weeks, day shift closure working in small areas between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00, bus hub to be moved to Station Road. Resurfacing will then take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September for 6 consecutive nights, 20:00 – 06:00

## **Other work/Schemes/Micro.**

Micro surfacing preparation:

- Works completed at Ringwood Drive, Cramlington.
- Preparation work at Kendal Drive starts 01/08/24 for 4 days.

Micro Surfacing contractors were expected to start early September.

Members raised the following:

- Flooding at Deneside, Seghill – further investigation would be carried out with the contractor.
- Surfacing on Dudley Lane, similar to Westmoreland Way – this would be looked at.
- Low Main Place and Station Road, speed humps, LTP - this would be investigated
- The bus stop at Barns Park and road surfacing.

Thanks were conveyed to the team.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points in members' comments be followed up.

## 16. SAMANTHA'S LEGACY

Alison Madigan and Donna Beattie were in attendance and explained the story behind Samantha's Legacy.

The key points included:

- Samantha's story and the background of the attack
- Prevention and awareness of knife crime
- Support, education and engagement of people and victims of knife crime
- Educational anti-knife crime workshops; 1:1 anti-knife crime sessions
- They hoped to work with councillors to ban machete knives
- The launch of the Knife Angel to Gateshead
- Funding via Crowdfunding had been raised for Wild Rose Theatre Group
- A victim retreat was opened in 2022 for families affected by knife crime
- It was hoped a Bleed Kit scheme would be adopted similar to the defibrillator scheme.

The presentation would be circulated via email to members of the committee.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

## 18. ENERGISE SE NORTHUMBERLAND

Carol Ashworth and Alison Fellows, Northumberland CAB were in attendance and shared presentations on the work of the Energy Team at Citizen's Advice Northumberland and on the new collaborative project EnergiSE Northumberland.

Key points from the presentations: -

### Energy Project

- The Specialist Energy Project had been established 6 years ago
- Current funders and partners - Energy Redress Scheme, Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks
- Referral routes included self-referral, NCT and other departments of CAB
- Provision of a holistic service – identifying issues and help with applying for benefits
- Caseworkers help clients to investigate issues, complaints, and customer service
- Advice was free and based on individual needs
- On going work with caseworkers dealing with complaints and supporting clients with applications to energy trusts
- Members were informed of energy impact stories and the outcomes

### EnergiSE Project

- A new project running from April 2024 to March 2026 funded by Northern Gasworks

- Energy caseworker support included energy efficiency survey and advice. Applications to emergency fuel voucher scheme. Support to help set up payment arrangements
- Welfare Benefit Advisor support with benefit checks, benefit application forms, support with appeals and tribunals
- Money caseworker support to understand problems with debt, income, and expenditure forms. A specialised debt adviser would identify debt and create a budget based on income and find a debt solution.

Members were invited to visit the service.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

## 19. LIBRARY AREA PROSPECTUS

Members received a presentation on the development of the Library Area Prospectus - how the service was applying the Universal Library Offers to the local area priorities. A Peaden, Library Services Manager and L Bewick, Library Supervisor were in attendance.

A copy of the presentation would be circulated to members and uploaded with the minutes to the website. The committee was advised that the Library Local Area Prospectus was aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan objectives specifically in relation to tackling inequalities and to positively impact health and wellbeing outcomes for residents. This would be delivered by four Universal Library Offers:

**Health and wellbeing:** Healthier, Happier, Connected

**Information and Digital:** Inform, Inspire, Innovate

**Reading:** Engage Imagine, Discover

**Culture and Creativity:** Explore, Create, Participate

There were five library locations in the area: The Hub library was situated within the Community Hub building in Cramlington; Bedlington library; Bedlington Station (within East Bedlington Community Centre; Seaton Sluice (within Seaton Sluice Community Centre) and Seaton Valley Library (within Astley High School).

Libraries, depending on the demographics of users, offered a range of activities for residents, for example Bedlington library offered health walks, and a bereavement group along with reading groups and a story session.

Cramlington and Bedlington populations had a spread of population with the majority being 60 years old and below in contrast to the rest of the country.

The Children's Promise – in the Cramlington area, 502 children had taken part in last year's Summer Reading Challenge, with 337 children completing. Library staff visited 13 schools out of 28 in the area to promote the challenge and engaged children in talking about the library.

ASCEL Children’s Library Journeys Report - the report stated that libraries were vital in the development of children’s early learning and cultural development, speaking, listening, literacy and social and emotional skills.

In addition to services offered to children and young people, it was proposed to prioritise engagement with families of newborns and address the drop in borrowing by 10+ by establishing stronger links with schools and family hubs. Staff training and engagement would be prioritised as would improving public awareness of study facilities available and piloting the ‘Study Happy’ initiative.

The digital inclusion work across the community supports ageing well and can improve older people’s way of lives, including help with online shopping and banking. Currently a digital reading offer via Borrowbox and Pressreader was provided in addition to free access to online resources, e.g. Ancestry, Find My Past. STEM workshops had been delivered including LEGO Spike coding workshops and tech crafts. Volunteer Digital Champions helped on a 1-2-1 basis with technical queries and support.

To improve the Library Service offer for older people, promotion would continue with customers and partners asking what they wanted; prioritisation of Home Library service, recruitment of volunteers and other forms of community engagement leading to an increase in the range of events and activities offered.

This year marked the centenary of Northumberland Libraries and would be celebrated by a poetry competition for adults; birthday cards from children and the sharing of stories and memories of what the library service had meant to people in the county over the years. Updates could be found on the Northumberland Libraries social media and website.

Members were asked for any ideas or suggestions to continue to improve the service.

Member suggestions included Will writing; local history groups with speakers; ‘Quiet Time’ or silent pods; hoarding advertisements; jigsaws of each town in relative libraries; help with online GP appointments; linking with NCC to assist with online services.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance and the information provided.

**20. WORK PROGRAMME:**

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

**21. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday 21 August (Planning)  
Wednesday 25 September.

**CHAIR .....**



**DATE .....**

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# Northumberland County Council

## Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee Work Programme 2024-25

UPDATED: 17.09.24

## 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:**

Northumberland County Council Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee Work Programme 2024-25	
24 July 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Petitions (if any)</li> <li>• EnergiSE Northumberland Presentation</li> <li>• Samantha's Legacy</li> <li>• Library Area Prospectus</li> </ul>
25 September 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petitions: (if any)</li> <li>• Newcastle International Airport</li> <li>• Leasehold Reform Bill 2024</li> </ul>
27 November 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Services Update</li> <li>• Petitions – Resident Parking on Terrier Close, Bedlington</li> </ul>
29 January 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petitions (if any)</li> </ul>
18 February 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Services Update</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Petitions (if any)</li></ul>
25 March 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Petitions (if any)</li></ul>

**Northumberland County Council  
Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee  
Monitoring Report 2024-25**

Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
29.05.24	Call for Bedlington to receive similar levels of investment as neighbouring towns	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the petition be received, and the Council's reply be noted.	
	Newcastle International Airport	<b>DEFERRED</b> to future meeting	
	Transition from analogue to digital landlines	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the presentation be noted.	
page 31	Outside Bodies	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the following list of appointments be confirmed but to query whether NCC representation was required for Cramlington Community Association and Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project.	
24.07.24	Local Services Update	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points in members' comments be followed up.	
	Samantha's Legacy	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the presentation be noted.	
	Library Area Prospectus	The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance and the information provided.	

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