



# Northumberland County Council

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Enquiries to:** Nichola Turnbull

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**Tel direct:** 01670 622617

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC** to be held in **CONFERENCE ROOM 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025** at **2.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully

Dr Helen Paterson  
Chief Executive

**To Communities and Place OSC members as follows:-**

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



**Dr Helen Paterson, Chief Executive**  
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## AGENDA

### PART I

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

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

#### 2. 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](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.

### **3. FORWARD PLAN OF CABINET DECISIONS**

(Pages 9  
- 12)

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

#### **OVERVIEW**

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following item is Councillor Gordon Stewart, Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Communities.*

#### **4.1 Storm Arwen Update**

(Pages  
13 - 20)

To receive an update and assurance from the Business Resilience and Emergency Planning Lead on the implementation of recommendations from the Storm Arwen Review and whether any matters from recent storms need to be reported.

*The Cabinet Member requested to attend for the following item is Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Supporting Business and Opportunities.*

#### **5.1 North East Local Transport Plan**

(Pages  
21 - 30)

To receive a presentation from the Head of Strategic Transport and Climate Change on the North East Transport Plan and the priorities for Northumberland.

#### **REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR**

### **6. COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MONITORING REPORT**

(Pages  
31 - 38)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates within a work programme which is agreed at the start of the Council year. The programme is reviewed at each meeting so that it can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Committee and take account of any changes to the latest Forward Plan (which outlines decisions to be taken by the Cabinet). The Committee is asked to review and note its work programme for the 2023/24 council year.

### **7. URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:**

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

<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)



# Agenda Item 3

## DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS - NOVEMBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
Cabinet Papers - 11 February 2025	<a href="https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&amp;MId=2900">https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&amp;MId=2900</a>
<b>Budget 2025-26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2029</b>	The full Cabinet decision is available via the above link.
<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits Policies 2025-26</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet recommend County Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the Revenues and Benefits Policies attached as Appendix 1 to Appendix 6 and the associated amendments; and</li> <li>• Approve removing the 100% class D discount in respect of uninhabitable properties for Council Tax.</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate Fraud Policies for 2025-26</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet approve the Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy, attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report.
<b>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</b>	
<b>Cramlington Youth Zone</b>	<p>Cabinet approve the spend of £0.498 million (£0.144 million in 2024-25 and £0.354 million in 2025-26) to build a purpose-built youth facility in Cramlington. This spend will be funded from the existing Cramlington budget in the capital programme. Note that this project will be delivered by Cramlington Town Council via a grant funding agreement with the Council.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the amendment to the capital programme to reallocate £0.498 million (£0.144 million in 2024-25 and £0.354 million in 2025-26) from the Cramlington project to the Cramlington Youth Zone project.</p>
<b>Coronation Park Dementia Garden</b>	<p>Cabinet approve the spend of £0.255 million (£0.046 million in 2024-25 and £0.209 million in 2025-26) to deliver the Coronation Park Dementia Garden. This spend will be funded from the existing Cramlington budget in the capital programme. Note that this project will be delivered by Cramlington Town Council via a grant funding agreement with the Council.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the amendment to the capital programme to reallocate £0.255 million (£0.046 million in 2024-25 and £0.209 million in 2025-26) from the Cramlington project to the Coronation Park Dementia Garden project.</p>
<b>Northumberland Line Update</b>	Cabinet approve the following capital spend and amendments to the capital programme in line with cost increases and increased funding from the Department for Transport (DfT):

	<p>Reallocate £4.500 million of Council funding from the Northumberland Line project to the Newsham Road Bridge project in 2024-25.</p> <p>Add an additional £67.801 million (£63.040 million in 2024-25 and £4.761 million in 2025-26) of external funding to the Northumberland Line project. This funding is from the Department for Transport to support the delivery of the Northumberland Line Programme.</p> <p>Reallocate £4.982 million of Council funding from the Capital Contract Inflation budget to the Northumberland Line project in 2024-25.</p> <p>Add an additional £3.120 million to the Newsham Road Bridge project in 2024-25. This spend will be funded from the Strategic Management Reserve.</p>
<p><b>Whitton View, Rothbury</b></p>	<p>Cabinet approve the spend of £0.272 million (£0.027 million in 2024-25 and £0.245 million in 2025-26) for the purchase of two 3-bed houses on the Cussins development site – Land East of Whitton View, Rothbury. The spend will be funded by £0.136 million HRA capital receipts and £0.136 million retained treasury receipts.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the amendment to the capital programme to add the Whitton View, Rothbury project of £0.272 million (£0.027 million in 2024-25 and £0.245 million in 2025-26).</p>
<p><b>Richard Stannard House Conversion</b></p>	<p>Cabinet approve the spend of £3.374 million (£0.371 million in 2024-25 and £3.003 million in 2025-26) to convert Richard Stannard House, a three-storey commercial building of 1164m<sup>2</sup> on Bridge Street in Blyth, into 16 apartments. This spend will be funded from the existing Levelling Up Deep Dive Housing Renewal and Town Centre Living project in the capital programme. Note this project will be delivered by Advance Commercial Limited via a grant funding agreement with the Council.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the amendment to the capital programme to reallocate £3.374 million (£0.371 million in 2024-25 and £3.003 million in 2025-26) from the Levelling Up Deep Dive Housing Renewal and Town Centre Living project to the Richard Stannard House Conversion.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the spend of £0.371 million in advance of the business case approval in order to develop the project.</p> <p>Cabinet approve the award of a grant to Advance Commercial Limited of £3.374 million (£0.371 million in 2024-25 and £3.003 million in 2025-26) and grant delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to enter into the grant funding agreement totalling £3.374 million.</p>

<b>Energy Central Campus Phase 2: Energy Central Institute</b>	The full Cabinet decision is available via the above link.
<b>Northumberland Food Strategy: Developing Northumberland's Food System</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cabinet endorse the Northumberland Food Strategy objectives and high-level delivery priorities as a framework for better integrating and realising the value of the county's food system;</li> <li>2. Cabinet agree to collaborate with Food and Drink North East to develop a Northumberland food brand and standard to promote Northumberland's food story by summer 2025. This will support growth of the food and drink sector and the visitor economy and enable closer supply chain links; and</li> <li>3. Cabinet agree to the creation of a task and finish internal officer working group to define, by autumn 2025, the subsequent delivery phases and proposed partnership governance within the context of the emerging regional food infrastructure and local partnership arrangements.</li> </ol>
<b>Care Quality Commission Assessment of Adult Social Care</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet note the report for information, and in particular, it be noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CQC's assessment of the Council's delivery of its adult social care duties is among the most positive assessments that they have so far published. The report makes particularly encouraging comments on the Council's partnership arrangements with other organisations;</li> <li>(b) The report assesses the Council's performance as "good" in seven of the nine domains which it covers. The two domains in which it says that the evidence considered by CQC "shows some shortfalls" were both identified as priorities for improvement in a position statement that was published by the Council earlier this year as the starting point for a broad conversation with service users, carers, staff and partner organisations about priorities for adult social care over the next three years; and</li> <li>(c) Consolidated action plans are being developed to address priorities for improvement identified through the CQC report and through the local conversation which the position statement initiated.</li> </ol>
<b>School Admission Arrangements and School Transport Policy</b>	The full Cabinet decision is available via the above link.

## CABINET FORWARD PLAN

<p><b>Newcastle International Airport - Governance Arrangements</b></p> <p>The report will seek approval in respect of governance arrangements and related matters concerning the Council's role as shareholder in Newcastle International Airport Limited.</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>Outcome of the Tender for James Calvert Spence College</b></p> <p>To give Cabinet an update on the outcomes of the tender process for the construction of a new school building for James Calvert Spence College and seek the delegated approved to award the construction contract.</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</b></p> <p>This report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the Capital Strategy Group on 19 December 2024.</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>Financial Performance 2024-25 – Position at End of December 2024</b></p> <p>Financial position as at December 2024 and an updated year end forecast for the council budget for 2024-25.</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>Borderlands Place Programme Update</b></p> <p>This report will provide an update on the Borderlands Place Programme in Northumberland seeking approval of recommendations in relation to the use of NCC capital match funding to develop and deliver the pipeline of project proposals in each of the seven towns in the Programme.</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>The North East Mayoral Combined Authority – Adult Education Budget</b></p> <p>Cabinet/Leader will be requested to consent to the making of the statutory instrument which transfers certain central government functions relating to the Adult Education Budget to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority</p>	11 March 2025
<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026-36</b></p> <p>The Northumberland ROWIP is a statutory document setting out how the County Council will identify, prioritise and plan improvements across the PROW network for the next ten years. It sets out nine policies and associated actions that will form our strategy for the next ten years to be delivered through rolling three-year Delivery Plans.</p>	8 April 2025
<p><b>Richard Stannard House</b></p> <p>This report updates cabinet and seeks approval of the outline business case and other key decisions outlining the delivery of Richard Stannard House</p>	8 April 2025



Northumberland  
County Council

# From Storm Arwen to Storm Eowyn

Helen Hinds

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

# Background

- Communities and Place OSC task and finish group convened following Storm Arwen
- Report agreed by full Council on 6 July 2022 with 28 Recommendations
- Progress reports received by Communities and Place OSC from Civil Contingencies Team on:
  - 5 October 2022
  - 28 February 2024 (closure report)
- Since storm Arwen NCC have responded to the following 12 named storms:
  - Barra – December 2021
  - Malik & Corrie – January 2022
  - Dudley & Eunice – February 2022
  - Babet – October 2023
  - Ciaran – November 2023
  - Isha & Jocelyn – January 2024
  - Bert – November 2024
  - Darragh – December 2024
  - Eowyn – January 2025

# Northumberland County Council's response arrangements 2025

- Northumberland Incident Response Plan version 2.2 includes:
  - Activation procedures
  - Command and control structure for business continuity and major incidents
  - Action Cards
  - Information Cards (including elected members and community resilience)
  - Templates
- Severe weather plan tested during Storms Bert and Darragh. Formally agreed by EMT the same week as Storm Eowyn
- Out of hours on-call rotas for Strategic (Executive Director) and Tactical (Director) levels supported and advised by Duty Civil Contingencies Officer
- Training and exercise programme for the on-call team

# Community Resilience

- Network of Assistance Centres around the county, currently 92 venues.
- Could be activated by us but working to empower communities to self activate as Community Response Hubs
- Community Response Hubs
  - Buildings owned by the community and opened by the community to support the community during an incident
  - They know their communities and can often respond quickly
- Work primarily through Town and Parish Councils and with Community Hall committees
- Work in partnership with Safe and Resilient Communities team
- Community Resilience forum events in last 12 months
  - Wooler
  - Hexham
  - Bellingham
  - Cramlington
  - Alnwick
  - Berwick



# Storm Eowyn

- First Met Office weather warning received Tuesday 21 January, yellow but in high impact column
- Amber warning received Wednesday 22 January
- Severe Weather plan activated
- First multi-agency meeting held on the morning of Thursday 23 January
  - 8 meetings held until stood down on afternoon of Monday 27 January
- First internal assessment meeting held on the afternoon of Thursday 23 January
  - 8 internal cross council assessment meetings until stood down on the afternoon of Monday 27 January
- First briefing sent to County Emergency Committee on evening of Thursday 23 January
- Community Response Hubs contact by phone on morning of Friday 24 January, followed up by 2 emails

# Improvements since Storm Arwen

- The Severe Weather plan was activated and used
- The Northumberland Incident Response Plan was used to support decision making
- Cross Council response was proportionate and coordinated virtually, managed by the on-call tactical officer, supported by the on-call strategic officer, advised by members of the Civil Contingencies Team
- Data from Northern Powergrid (NPg) was forthcoming and shared via business-as-usual arrangements
- NPg's communications with partners and customers was of a higher standard and it was clear what compensation was available for residents.
- Adult social care colleagues were able to process data received from NPg and check on vulnerable clients, any gaps in contact were passed to Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service for face-to-face visits
- Data team stood up as the incident moved into day 3 and 4 to help visualise areas without power and combine data from additional internal datasets
- Community Response Hubs were proactively contacted to ask for updates on their status, some chose to open others made the decision to not open.

# Areas for improvement

- Data from Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) was not in the same format as data from NPg and was difficult to work with
- Information from SPEN to residents was poor and difficult to find. It was not clear what their compensation packages was or how it could be accessed.
- Some houses in SPEN's area in North Northumberland had power restored on Wednesday 29 January, 5 days after the storm hit
- The out of hours data requirement and capacity needs to be clarified and developed further
- Contact to community hubs could have been made earlier to reduce the risk of communication outages due to power cuts.
- Message to Community Response Hubs about advantages of letting us know they are open needs to be clearer
- Network of Community Response Hubs to be developed further (continual improvement)
- Wider operational support roles within NCC to be developed and recruited for e.g. admin support

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# The North East Local Transport Plan (LTP)

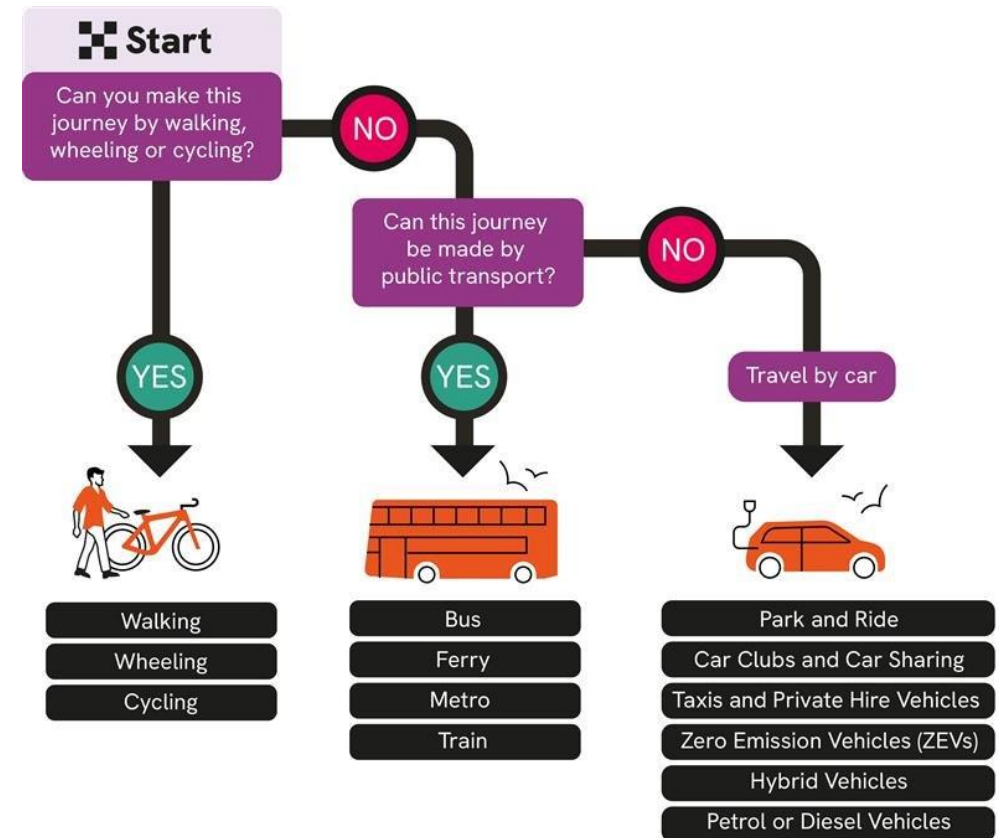
Northumberland County Council, Overview and Scrutiny



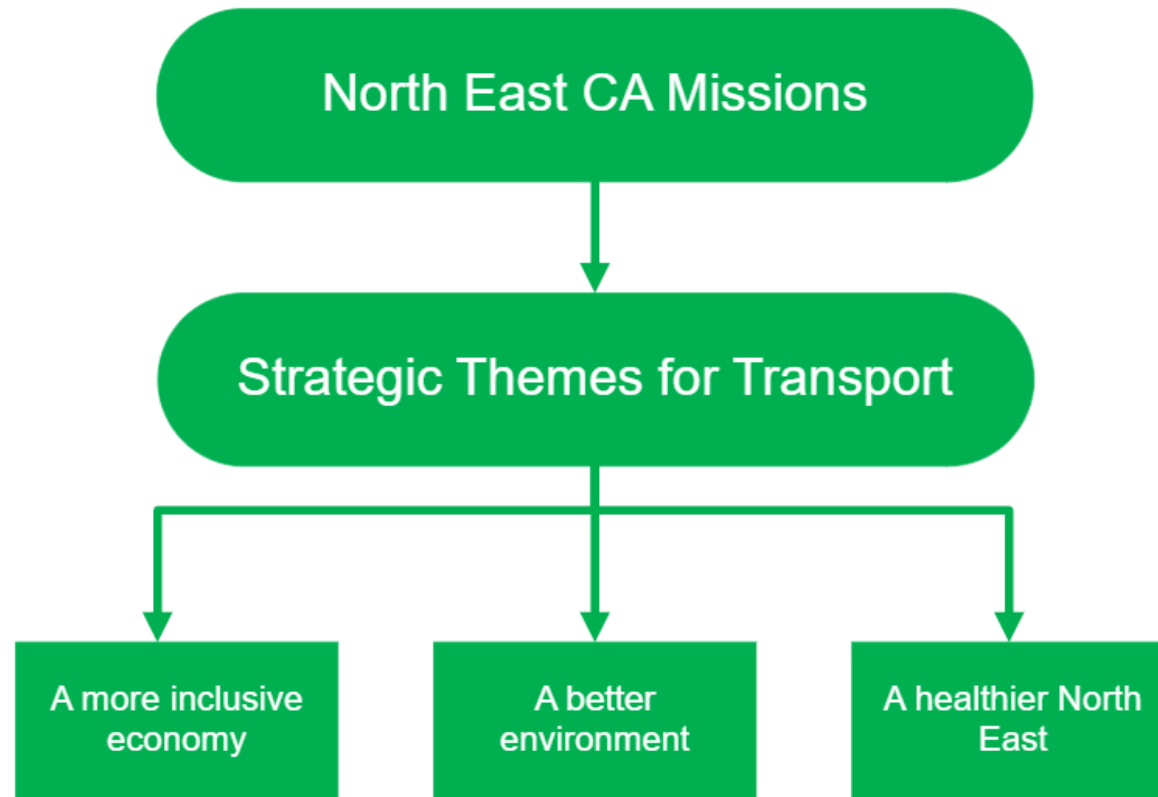
# What is the NE Local Transport Plan (LTP)?

Page 22

- The LTP is a statutory plan which sets out in strategic terms what the Mayor aspires to achieve through transport provision and why.
- Accompanied by delivery plan - the list of what we will build, introduce or change up to 2040 and what mechanisms we will use to deliver interventions.
- **Aim:** to create a green, integrated transport network that works for all.
- Covers movement of both people and freight.
- Making journeys is good as it benefits our economy. Greener journeys are even better as they also benefit our environment and health.



# Local Transport Plan Outcomes





# Where we want to be

The draft LTP sets out an ambitious set of service standards for an improved transport network. These service standards come under one of the five key focus areas:

- 1. Planning journeys, informing users, and supporting customers.** Information should be easy to find and accessible for everyone, this includes live journey information.
- 2. Ticketing and fares.** Tickets and fares should be simple, affordable, and easy to use. People should be able to travel across the region on different transport types without having to buy multiple tickets.
- 3. Reach and resilience of infrastructure.** The network should extend to all areas of the region including rural and coastal areas whilst also being capable of dealing with extreme weather changes.
- 4. Safety, especially of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.** Everyone should feel safe when using public transport.
- 5. Connections between different transport types.** Transport should be well co-ordinated making it easier to switch between different transport types.

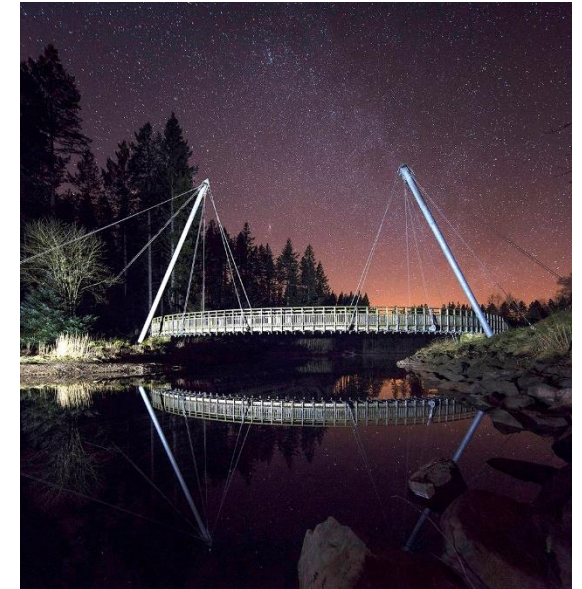






# How we will get there- delivery plan

- Sets out the actions that can be taken by the North East CA and partners to 2040 for example, what we will build, introduce and change, to deliver the LTP.
- Sets out a pipeline of 327 schemes with an estimated value of £8.2bn.
- Highlights powers and other delivery mechanisms (e.g. Bus Reform) which are the tools to make this happen.
- Sets out a range of interventions that are costed and set against potential funding options.
- We can deliver interventions (subject to funding and powers) in the following time periods: up to 2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2040.
- Maintained as a live programme which can evolve as schemes develop, new funding priorities are identified, and we progress through delivery.





# Northumberland context – what the LTP proposes

- The LTP acknowledges that a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach cannot meet the needs of all communities.
- Tailored solutions that address the specific challenges faced by communities in Northumberland, including tackling transport-related social exclusion (TRSE).
- Proposes investing in integration initiatives, demand-responsive transport, car clubs, community-led transport schemes, and mobility hubs.
- Ensuring that the green, integrated transport network is designed to connect communities across Northumberland, making it easier for people to access jobs, education, and essential services without being dependent on car ownership.
- The LTP recognises that cars or vans may remain the only viable option for some journeys, especially in rural areas. There is a focus on ensuring there are realistic alternatives to reduce this reliance where possible.





# LTP Consultation Findings

- Consultation ran across a 12-week period between 4 November 2024 and 26 January 2025.
- Over 16,000 responses received of which:
  - 15,565 were from individuals;
  - 19 were from statutory consultees;
  - 41% were from males;
  - 54% were from female;
  - 80% were from respondents in urban areas and 20% from in rural areas
  - 15% of responses are from Northumberland compared to the 16% ONS population.
- 81% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the ambition, 85% strongly agreed or agreed that the LTP identifies the right challenges, and 81% believe that we are focusing on the right improvements.



# Timescales and next steps

- **February 2025** - Mayor to finalise the LTP and accompanying documents in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport.
- **March 2025** - post consultation version of LTP, delivery plan and summary document to North East CA Cabinet for review.





**Thank you for your time**

*Any questions?*

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Northumberland County Council

Communities and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2024-2025

## 1. Terms of reference:

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

## 2. Issues to be Timetabled/Considered

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

- Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans – development of the programme
- Northumberland Road Safety Strategy – use of members scheme funds and costings.



- Northumberland Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- New Section 106 system
- Housing Policy Statement

Northumberland County Council  
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025.

**2 April 2025**

**Woodland and Tree Strategy**

To consider progress in finalising the Strategy.

**Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

To provide an update on progress.

Northumberland County Council  
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2024-2025

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	12 June 2024	<b>Great Northumberland Forest Programme Update</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that members noted the update.	No further action at this stage.
2.	12 June 2024	<b>Highways Maintenance</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that members received the presentation.	A further report will be presented to the next meeting.
3.	24 July 2024	<b>Highways Maintenance Drainage Operations</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet be asked to consider increasing the capacity for gully cleansing and road sweeping as outlined above and feedback on this recommendation be provided to the Committee in advance of the Administration setting the forthcoming budget.</li> <li>• A log be kept of landowner enforcement actions taken and be reported to this Committee.</li> <li>• The Leader be asked to contact all new MPs to ask them to honour the promised £184m over 10 years to highway maintenance and this be linked to RPI/CPI.</li> <li>• Information on how flooding incidents were reported and logged should be made available to the Committee.</li> <li>• Suitable equipment should be provided by the Council to volunteer groups set up to assist with gully cleansing activities.</li> <li>• Recommendations from the BEST review into highway inspections be reported to this Committee.</li> </ul>	Cabinet considered the recommendations on 8 October 2024. The Leader agreed to write to MPs as requested. A further update will be presented to the Committee confirming other actions and a report dealing with the BEST recommendations on Highways Inspections will also be added to the work programme when ready.
4.	25 September 2024	<b>Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report 2024/25</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the contents of the NFRS Annual Performance Report be noted and its review continue to be included in the work programme on an annual basis.	The OSC will receive further reports including inspection outcomes as appropriate.

5.	25 September 2024	<b>Update on Library Service Redesign and Development</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that: (a) The contents of the report be noted. (b) The progress and achievements of the service be noted. (c) The service priorities for 2024/25 and 2025/26, be noted. These included a review of the Library Service and the development of a new Library Strategy to reflect the government guidance due to be published.	The OSC will continue to monitor the service as appropriate.
6.	25 September 2024	<b>Provision of Museum Services in Northumberland</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: (a) Noted the presentation. (b) Supported the process that had been undertaken. They were of the opinion that it was important that accessibility to the county's heritage and cultural provision be improved for all Northumberland's residents. (c) Recommend that the Council progress with the Trade Unions engagement as outlined.	The Cabinet accepted the OSC's report on this matter at the meeting on 8 October 2024.
7.	30 October 2024	<b>Places for People Leisure Introduction</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the presentation be noted.	A further presentation on whole year operations be presented to the OSC in 2025/26.
8.	27 November 2024	<b>Highway Drainage Maintenance Action Plan</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the Communities and Place OSC: a) Thanked the administration for the additional funds that had been provided for the highway's drainage programme of work in 2024/25. b) Acknowledged the work that had been undertaken by officers since the meetings in June and July on the Highways issues. c) Receive an update on the position with regard to the emptying of the gully wagons in due course.	Further reports be presented to the Committee as appropriate.

			<p>d) Inform Cabinet that they supported the budget request in 2025/26 for more resource for preventative maintenance.</p> <p>e) Receive the update on the work undertaken on trees to date and that a further report be received in due course.</p>	
9.	27 November 2024	<b>S106 Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023-2024</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <p>a) The report and S106 Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2023-2024, be noted.</p> <p>b) A link to the Council's webpage regarding Sport &amp; Play be circulated to members of the Communities &amp; Place OSC following the meeting.</p>	This report continue to be presented annually.
10.	29 January 2025	<b>BEST Review of Regulation and Enforcement Activities</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <p>a) A Communications Plan and / or training session be held for elected county councillors and Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>b) The implementation be reviewed in 12 months.</p> <p>c) Workforce report includes the Council's approach to ensure the optimum balance between staff working at home or in an office environment.</p>	A further update will be requested in 12 months.
11.	29 January 2025	<b>Common Allocation Policy Review</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported a review of the Common Allocation Policy and that full engagement with the process be obtained by the Registered Social Landlords.	The Committee may seek further updates on the completion of the review.

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