



# Northumberland County Council

## **Forward Plan: Northumberland County Council**

### **Notice of Key Decisions to be taken under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings & Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 between 1 February 2023 and 31 May 2023**

This Plan gives 28 clear days' notice of key decisions which either the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Portfolio Holders expect to take over the next few months. An authority cannot take a key decision without giving 28 clear days' notice unless an urgent decision is required.

"Key decisions" are defined as those Executive/Cabinet decisions which are likely:

- a. to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget or making savings of an amount which is significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or the function to which the decision relates; or
- b. to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions within the area of the Council.

Occasionally it is not possible to give 28 days' notice of a specific decision and so include the details in the forward plan. In those circumstances urgent key decisions may still be made under the urgency procedures set out in the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution.

A decision notice for each key decision made is published within 6 days of it having been made.

Whilst the majority of decisions listed in this Plan will be taken at meetings which are open to the public to attend, there may be some decisions which are considered in private meetings because the reports for the meeting contain confidential or exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (see below for relevant paragraphs) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

If you object to a report being considered in private you can tell us why by emailing [democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk) or contacting the address below. Any representations received at least 8 working days before the meeting will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be reported verbally to the meeting.

**The Cabinet is made up of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members with the following portfolios:**

Leader of the Council	Councillor Glen Sanderson
Deputy Leader and Corporate Services	Councillor Richard Wearmouth
Cabinet Member (Community Services)	Councillor Colin Horncastle
Cabinet Member (Adults' Wellbeing)	Councillor Wendy Pattison
Cabinet Member (Business)	Councillor Wojciech Ploszaj
Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)	Councillor Guy Renner Thompson
Cabinet Member (Healthy Lives)	Councillor Jeff Watson
Cabinet member (Local Services)	Councillor John Riddle

**Paragraphs under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Exempt Information**

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals an authority proposes;
  - a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime

Copies of the Council's Constitution and agendas and reports relevant to any key decision may be accessed on the Council's website [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) or may be viewed during normal office hours and copies or extracts obtained on payment of a reasonable fee (unless the publication contains exempt information) at:

**Democratic Services, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF**

**Telephone 0345 600 6400 Or Contact: [Democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk)**

Title of Report	Brief Description of Report	Cabinet Portfolio holder / Officer contact	Decision maker & earliest date decision may be made	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Wards affected	Reason for exemption under Sched 12A (if in private session)
30 Year Business Plan for the Housing Revenue Account	The report presents to Cabinet the 30 year Business plan for the Housing Revenue Account	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A
Alternative Provision to Support Children Permanently Excluded from School	The report seeks permission from Cabinet to undertake a tender process to support the provision of Alternative Education for children of statutory school age. This is a statutory service which is demand led meaning that the Council must provide full time schooling for permanently excluded pupils from the 6th	Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A

	<p>school day. The request is necessary due to the approaching expiry of an existing tender and a likely change in emphasis by the Department for Education in respect of regulation which may have an impact upon levels of expenditure.</p>					
<p>Berwick Theatre Revised Outline Business Case</p>	<p>The report is to provide an update about some important changes to the Business Case for the Berwick Theatre (New Maltings) project, including changes to the project costs, funding requirement, and value for money assessment. It subsequently seeks approval to request a further investment of £5m from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal to cover rising capital costs.</p>	<p>Councillor Hugh Glen Howard Sanderson</p>	<p>Cabinet 14 February 2023</p>		<p>Berwick East; Berwick North; Berwick West with Ord</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-27	The report presents the updated Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-27 to Cabinet following the receipt of the provisional local government settlement which is due to be announced during December 2022. The report will also include an update on the deliverability of savings.	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A
Council Response to the Independent Review of its Cultural Investment Portfolio	The report summarises the findings of the independent report and seeks approval to the Council's immediate response to those findings, including the proposed budget approach to revising the Investment Portfolio.	Councillor Jeff Watson	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A
Council Response to the Report of	The report summarises the findings of the independent Inquiry	Councillor Hugh Glen Howard Sanderson	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A

the Independent Future of Farming in Northumberland Inquiry	and seeks approval to the Council's immediate response to those findings.					
Council Tax Discretionary Discount and Council Tax Hardship Schemes 2023-24	The report proposes a Council Tax Discretionary Discount Scheme and Council Tax Hardship Schemes for financial year 2023-24.	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A
Energising Blyth: Energy Central Campus Governance Arrangements Update	This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval for amendments to the officers nominated as Directors of the Energy Central Campus Company Ltd.	Councillor Wojciech Franciszek Ploszaj	Cabinet 14 February 2023		Cowpen; Croft; Isabella; Kitty Brewster; Newsham; Plessey; South Blyth; Wensleydale	N/A
Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme	The report summarises the Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme the initial tranche of funding secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural Economic	Councillor Hugh Glen Howard Sanderson	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A

	Prosperity Fund, and North of Tyne Investment Programme. It subsequently seeks approval to the proposed first phase of implementation.					
Revenues and Benefits Policies for 2023/24	<p>The report sets out the policies that the Revenues and Benefits services operate for the administration of council tax, business rates, housing benefit and council tax support.</p> <p>The report is for information and approval of any updates or legislation changes that need to be made.</p> <p>The policies need County Council approval on 22 February 2023.</p>	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 February 2023		All Wards	N/A
Director of Education Final	The Director of Education Annual	Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	N/A

Report	Report presents a self-evaluation of where NCC Education are as a result of work delivered during 2021-22 and also seeks to demonstrate aspirations for the future across all areas of education and related supporting functions.					
Financial Performance 2022-23 - Position at the end of December 2022	The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2022	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	N/A
Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022	The report provides Members with the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2026 for review and agreement	Councillor Colin William Horncastle	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	N/A
School Transport Review Outcome	At SLT on 1st November 2022 the full range of recommendations	Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	N/A



Options	<p>resulting from the system wide review of home to school transport were shared. In response to this, SLT requested a further paper to provide a summary with greater detail on the range of options considered during the review on where the transport service best sits within Northumberland County Council. This report provides the options as requested for evaluation and alongside this request's approval for the specific initiative to establish NCC delivered Independent Travel Training provision using start-up funding from the Council Transformation Fund</p>					
Service Charges in Sheltered	The report requests permission to introduce Service	Councillor Colin William Horncastle	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	N/A

Accommodation	Charges to all tenants in 8 Sheltered Housing Schemes in line with those currently charged at Arnison Close in Allendale. The HRA is currently subsidising these tenants at a cost of approx. £200k per year					
The Link (Bridge Street Improvements)	This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval of the Outline Business Case and other key decisions regarding the development and delivery of The Link project. The Link will improve the highway and public realm along Bridge Street which is one of the main vehicle and pedestrian routes into the town centre. It will improve connectivity and provide a greatly improved walking and cycling link between the town centre and the quayside. The	Councillor Wojciech Franciszek Ploszaj	Cabinet 14 March 2023		Cowpen; Croft; Isabella; Kitty Brewster; Newsham; Plessey; South Blyth; Wensleydale	N/A

	project will support Blyth's vision to be a Connected, Vibrant and Clean Growth Town					
Trading Companies' Financial Performance 2022-23 - Position at the end of December 2022	The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Cabinet is informed of the current financial positions of its trading companies for 2022-23	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 14 March 2023		All Wards	3
Leisure Programme Update	To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme	Councillor Jeff Watson	Cabinet 11 April 2023		All Wards	N/A
Financial Performance 2022-23 – Position at the end of March 2023 (Provisional Outturn)	The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 March 2023 (provisional outturn)	Councillor Richard Watson Wearmouth	Cabinet 9 May 2023		All Wards	N/A
Outcomes of Phase 2 Consultation about	This report sets out the feedback received from stakeholders arising from Phase 2 of	Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson	Cabinet 9 May 2023		Berwick East; Berwick North; Berwick West with Ord	N/A

Education in Berwick Partnership	informal consultation with stakeholders in the Berwick Partnership area and other relevant parties on the possible models of school organisation within both the current 3-tier system and within a 2-tier (primary/secondary) system.					
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