



# 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 January 2024 and 30 April 2024**

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 & Corporate Services	Councillor Richard Wearmouth
Cabinet Member (Supporting Business and Opportunities)	Councillor Wojciech Ploszaj
Cabinet Member (Caring for Adults)	Councillor Wendy Pattison
Cabinet Member (Improving our Roads and Highways)	Councillor John Riddle
Cabinet Member (Improving Public Health and Wellbeing)	Councillor Veronica Jones
Cabinet Member (Inspiring Young People)	Councillor Guy Renner Thompson
Cabinet Member (Promoting Healthy Lives)	Councillor Jeff Watson
Cabinet Member (Looking after our Environment)	Councillor Colin Horncastle
Cabinet Member (Looking After Our Communities)	Councillor Gordon Stewart

**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)
Ashington Regeneration Programme - Update, Funding and Site Acquisitions	This report provides an update on the delivery of the Ashington Regeneration Programme and seeks approval for the strategic acquisition of the Wansbeck Square and Woodhorn Road sites from Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Limited to create the required development platform to enable implementation.  It further sets out the associated holding	Cabinet Member for Supporting Business and Opportunities	Cabinet 16 January 2024		Ashington Central	N/A

	<p>costs post-acquisition that the council will incur and requests an allocation of £160,000 revenue to meet these costs in 2023/24 and 2024/25 from the Finance Contingency Budget.</p> <p>The report also seeks approval for the development and submission of an outline bid for £2.5m to the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Northumberland Line Economic Corridor Investment Programme which, if successful, will provide important match funding for the redevelopment of Wansbeck Square Strategic Site.</p>					
Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 Update	The report will provide an update following the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The report will also update	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Cabinet 16 January 2024		All Wards	N/A

	members with regard to the efficiencies identified to date, and progress in relation to the compilation of the Capital Programme.					
BUDGET 2024-25 , MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-28 AND 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	The report presents to Cabinet, the updated Budget 2024-25, Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28 and 30 year Business plan for the Housing Revenue Account.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Cabinet 16 January 2024		All Wards	N/A
National Funding Formula & School Funding 2024-25	An annual report to update Cabinet in relation to the implementation of the Department for Education's National Funding Formula, and to seek delegated powers to set the formula values in order to distribute the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant.	Cabinet Member for Inspiring Young People	Cabinet 16 January 2024		All Wards	N/A
Notification of	The report will advise	Deputy Leader and	Cabinet 16		All Wards	N/A

<p>the Estimated Collection Fund Balances 2023-24– Council Tax and Business Rates</p>	<p>members of the estimated surplus or deficit balances on the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates at 31 March 2024. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) requires the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax Collection Fund estimate by 15th January each year. The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 require the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Business Rates Collection Fund estimate on or before 31st January each year.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources</p>	<p>January 2024</p>			
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p>	<p>This report summarises the reports considered by the Capital Strategy Group on 28 November 2023.</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 January 2024</p>		<p>All Wards</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2028	The report presents the updated Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2028 to Cabinet (for recommendation to County Council) following the receipt of the provisional local government settlement which is due to be announced in December 2023. The report will also include an update on the deliverability of savings	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Cabinet 13 February 2024		All Wards	N/A
School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2025/2026 Academic Year	This report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the consultation on School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2025/26 Academic Year as required by the School Admissions Code 2021. Approval (determination) of these admission arrangements is also sought	Cabinet Member for Inspiring Young People	Cabinet 13 February 2024		All Wards	N/A

Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26	To replace the expiring Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23 and to set out our intended strategies for reaching our climate change targets across the next three years and beyond.	Leader of Council	Cabinet 12 March 2024		All Wards	N/A
Financial Performance 2023-24 - Position at the end of December 2023	The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2023.	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services	Cabinet 12 March 2024		All Wards	N/A