

## Northumberland County Council Advisory Board Terms of Reference

Following the publication of the Solace Independent non-statutory Governance (also referred to as the Max Caller report) Review of Northumberland County Council on 8th June 2022, the County Council, wishes to appoint an Advisory Board to provide ongoing support the Council to support the Governance Review Action Plan.

1. The purpose of the Board is:
  - a. To provide external advice, challenge and expertise to the County Council in driving forward the development and delivery of the Governance Review Action Plan.
  - b. To provide assurance to public, the Council and stakeholders that there is progress in delivering this Plan.
2. Methodology:
  - a. Providing regular advice, challenge and support to the Council on the full range of the action plan and in particular on delivery of the recommendations in Max Caller's report.
  - b. Providing written commentaries on the Council's progress against its action plan on a quarterly basis. These reports will be in public and reported to the Cabinet and full Council.
  - c. The Board will decide the extent to which its meetings are held in public and what, if any agenda, minutes or papers it publishes, in accordance with the usual access to information rules.
  - d. The Board will comprise 5 individuals and include external advisors appointed on the recommendation of the Cross-Party Task and Finish Steering Group that was set up to consider and respond to the Caller report, on behalf of the Council. Given the emphasis on governance and cultural change, it is envisaged external persons with a strong, high profile and established track record in local government governance and organisational change will be required.
  - e. We anticipate that the Board will be in existence for a minimum of 12 months and the membership and purpose will be reviewed over this period.