



# Northumberland

## County Council

CABINET

11 OCTOBER 2022

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### **REVISED JOINT CHARTER WITH TOWN, PARISH AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

**Report of:** Rick O'Farrell, Interim Chief Executive

**Cabinet Member:** Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council

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#### **Purpose of report**

This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval for the publication of the revised joint Charter between the County Council and the Town, Parish and Community Councils (TPCCs) in Northumberland.

#### **Recommendations**

**Cabinet is recommended to consider and approve the revised joint Charter attached as Appendix A to this report.**

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the commitment in the Corporate Plan to strengthen the relationship with TPCCs, working collaboratively to secure the best outcomes for residents, as set out in the 'How – Priorities' in the Corporate Plan. The work with TPCC's underpins the aims and objectives across the Corporate Plan.

#### **Key issues**

This revised Charter includes only minor amendments to the 2019 edition and has been prepared following consultation with Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC); it defines joint principles to enable NCC and TPCCs to work effectively together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Northumberland.

The key amendments are a) further clarity on Election charges, and b) additional text which commits the Council not to agree to developers and other third parties providing facilities which would normally be the responsibility of the TPCC to provide, maintain and insure, unless the TPCC has given its prior consent to such provision and the conditions associated with this.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. In 2009, following Local Government Reorganisation in Northumberland, when the former County Council and the six District Councils were abolished and replaced by one unitary authority, the new unitary Northumberland County Council (NCC) adopted a Local Council Charter. The purpose of the Charter was to define the relationship between NCC and TPCCs. It was designed to enable effective partnership working between the two tiers of local government within Northumberland at a time of significant change. Reviews of the principles within the Charter were undertaken in 2011, 2014 and 2019.
2. The implementation of the Charter, and its effectiveness, will continue to be monitored by regular joint meetings of the Town and Parish Liaison Working Group and, as a minimum, the document will be updated after every County Council election.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy</b>	There are no Policy implications within this report.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	There are no Finance implications within this report.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no Legal implications within this report.
<b>Procurement</b>	There are no Procurement implications within this report.
<b>Human Resources</b>	There are no Human Resources implications within this report. NCC officers, who deal with TPCCs, will be expected to adhere to the requirements included in the Charter. A commitment is given in the charter to produce a 'Who's Who' of council staff who work closely with TPCC's, with a focus on Local Services.
<b>Property</b>	There are no Property implications within this report.
<b>Equalities</b>	There are no Equalities implications within this report. (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No X N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	There are no risks associated with this report.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	There are no Crime & Disorder implications within this report.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	There are no Customer Consideration implications within this report.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	There are no Carbon Reduction implications within this report.

<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	There are no Health & Wellbeing implications within this report.
<b>Wards</b>	Relevant to all Wards in the County.

**Background papers:**

Appendix A – Northumberland Town, Parish and Community Council Charter

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Rick O'Farrell
Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
Portfolio Holder(s)	Glen Sanderson

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