

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor G. Sanderson
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

CABINET MEMBERS

Horncastle, C.	Riddle, J.R.
Pattison, W.	Watson, J.G.
Ploszaj, W.	Wearmouth, R.
Renner Thompson, G.	

OTHER MEMBERS

Seymour, C.	Stewart, G.
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Binjal, S.	Monitoring Officer
Bradley, N.	Director of Adult Social Services
Curry, A.	Senior Manager - Commissioning
Hadfield, K.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Hunter, P.	Interim Senior Service Director
Kingham, A.	Interim Joint Director of Children's Services
Lancaster, H.	Deputy Monitoring Officer
McMillan, S.	Assistant Service Director
O'Farrell, R.	Interim Chief Executive
Reiter, G.	Interim Joint Director of Children's Services
Roll, J.	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services
Taylor, M.	Interim Executive Director for Communities and Business

Ch.'s Initials.....

Thompson, W.
Willis, J.

Development
Group Company Secretary
Interim Executive Director of
Finance and S151 Officer

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 October 2022, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

51. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Watson advised that he would declare an interest as a member of the Advance Board should there be any discussion during the course of the meeting. This was part of his register of interests.

52. REPORT OF THE JOINT INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Outcomes of Statutory Consultation on Proposals for the Coquet Partnership

The report set out an analysis of the representations and responses received from interested parties and stakeholders during the four-week statutory consultation, which commenced on 22 September and closed on 20 October 2022, in relation to proposals for the Coquet Partnership. The report also set out an analysis of the responses received to the four-week statutory consultation in relation to proposals for Barndale House Special School, which was also published 22 September 2022 and closed on 20 October 2022. The two published statutory proposals set out the following proposed prescribed changes to the schools within the Coquet partnership and to Barndale House Special School:

- Extend the age range, from 9 years to 11 years, for Amble First School, Amble Links First School, Broomhill First School, Red Row First School and Grange View First School from 1st September 2024.
- Reducing the age range, from 9 to 18 years to 11 to 18 years, for James Calvert Spence College commencing on 1st September 2024.
- To create a satellite provision of Barndale House School on the South Avenue, Amble site from 1st September 2024.
- Increase the planned pupil numbers at Barndale House School from 60 to 110 from 1st September 2024.

Cabinet was asked to make a final decision on whether or not to approve the prescribed changes for schools in the Coquet Partnership and for Barndale House Special School, as set out in the Statutory Proposals, for implementation with effect from 1st September 2024. At the same time, Cabinet was requested to consider and approve the non-statutory proposal

to extend the age range of Grange View Church of England First Schools with effect from 1st September 2024 as it is linked to the other proposals outlined above (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A, along with the report of the FACS OSC circulated at the meeting).

A number of school representatives joined the meeting remotely for this item and Mrs Louise Laskey, headteacher at Grange View First School was also present.

Councillor Renner Thompson presented the report for members, detailing the key points. The Leader referred to the report from FACS OSC which had raised points around the use of solar panels and the impact on the current workforce, but had supported the recommendations.

Councillor Renner Thompson confirmed that there would be no outside recruitment unless a post could not be filled within the current workforce.

Mrs Laskey commented that all schools in the Partnership worked closely together and all efforts were being made to ensure that there were no job losses.

Councillor Watson commended Councillor Renner Thompson and the team of staff for the open and positive way in which the whole exercise had been undertaken. The sports facilities would be very welcome and he fully supported the proposals.

Mrs Lancaster then read out some detailed legal advice to Cabinet members.

Councillor Renner Thompson then moved the report's recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor Watson.

It was then **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) In the light of the prescribed changes and the non-statutory changes set out in the statutory proposal published on 22 September 2022 for schools in the Coquet Partnership and all the information provided in this report (taking into account the Statutory Guidance from the Department for Education's (DfE) *'Statutory Guidance for proposers and decision-makers: Making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools* attached at Appendix 4, Cabinet:
 - Approve the Council's statutory proposal to extend the age range of Amble First School from an age 4-9 first school to an age 4-11 primary school and the non-statutory proposal to relocate the school to the part of the current site of James Calvert Spence College, South Avenue, Amble with effect from 1 September 2024;
 - Approve the Council's statutory proposals to extend the age range of Amble Links First School from an age 2-9 first school to an age 2-11 primary school and expand the school building with effect from 1 September 2024;

- Approve the Council's statutory proposals to extend the age range of Broomhill First School from an age 3-9 first school to an age 3-11 primary school and expand the school building with effect from 1 September 2024;
- Approve the Council's statutory proposals to extend the age range of Red Row First School from an age 3-9 first school to an age 3-11 primary school and expand the school building with effect from 1 September 2024;
- Approve the Council's proposals to reduce the age range of James Calvert Spence College from an age 9-18 school to an age 11-18 secondary school with effect from 1 September 2025;

All of the above conditional upon:

- the granting of planning permission by 31 August 2024 in relation to the proposed building works at Amble Links, Broomhill and Red Row First Schools, proposed buildings works for Amble First School at the current site of James Calvert Spence College, South Avenue site and in relation to the construction and refurbishment of the new school buildings for James Calvert Spence College.
- (b) In the light of the non-statutory changes included in the above statutory proposal for information in relation to Grange View Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School, Cabinet :
- Approve the Council's non-statutory proposals to extend the age range of Grange View Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School from and age 3-9 first school to an age 3-11 primary school and extend the school building with effect from 1 September 2024;
- (c) In the light of all the information provided in this report and taking into account the Statutory Guidance from the Department for Education's (DfE) *'Statutory Guidance for proposers and decision-makers: 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools* attached at Appendix 4, Cabinet approve for implementation the following prescribed changes as set out in the statutory proposal for Barndale House Special School published on 22 September 2022;
- Increase the number of pupil places at Barndale House Special School by 50 places from 60 to 110 places for children and young people diagnosed with special educational needs, primarily those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), Speech Language and Communication (SLCN) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
 - To facilitate the above increase in planned places, create a satellite site of Barndale Special School to be located within part of the current James Calvert Spence College, South Avenue site in Amble.

The above conditional upon the granting of planning permission in relation to the proposed buildings works for Barndale House Special School at the current site of James Calvert Spence College by 31 August 2024.

- (d) Cabinet approve the allocation of £39.06m from the funding sources set out at para. 38, Table 6 towards the capital costs required to support the implementation of the prescribed changes set out in Recommendation 5 and 7 above. Full details of the capital costs required for implementation are set out at paras. 38. to 40;
- (e) Cabinet approve the Outline Business Case contained as Appendix 3 to allow the project to progress with option 5 as the preferred option to detailed design, procurement and submission of a planning application for the project. The outcomes of the procurement exercise will be reported back to Cabinet in the form of a Final Business Case (FBC) in order to seek final approval for the award of contract programmed for October 2023;
- (f) in formulating its decision, Cabinet have taken the following into account:
- The responses received to the Statutory Proposals and the commentary contained within this report at paras. 18-19.
 - The implications of the proposals on schools and the local community as set out in the Statutory Proposals attached at Appendix 1 and 2.
 - The implications for Home to School Transport of the statutory proposals as set out in this report.
 - The Outline Business case for James Calvert Spence College attached at Appendix 3.
 - The need to review Cabinet's capital investment in schools in the Coquet Partnership and the potential impact on the building solution for the satellite site of Barndale House Special School should it decide not to approve the proposal to reorganise the schools to a 2-tier(primary/secondary) structure; and
- (g) the report of the FACS OSC be noted.

Cabinet then retired briefly so that its decision and the reasons for it could be written up. On returning, the Chair read out the following statement:-

Having considered all of the responses to the statutory consultation, the proposals to extend the age ranges of Amble First School, Amble Links First School, Broomhill First School, Grange View CE First School and Red Row First School and to reduce the age range of James Calvert Spence College (JCSC) should be adopted and implemented without modification for the following reasons:

- 1) The Governing Bodies of the first schools, the majority of parents and staff of schools in the partnership (who responded to the informal and

statutory consultations) and the Newcastle Diocese Education Board support the proposals, while the Governing Body of JCSC has expressed a desire to support whichever structure of schools is approved.

- 2) Cabinet supports the educational rationale proposed by the first schools, which is
 - First schools are well placed to deliver the primary curriculum to the end of KS2 as primary specialists;
 - The 2-tier(primary/secondary) structure matches the National Curriculum and is in line with the majority of the schools nationally;
 - Having fewer transitions would benefit children with SEND especially.
 - Schools would have accountability for whole key stages in the 2- tier(primary/secondary) structure.
- 3) £33.46m will be invested into the buildings of Coquet Partnership to support the reorganisation, and including the provision of new buildings for JCSC.
- 4) Parents will retain the ability to express a preference for a place for their child in any school in Northumberland or another local authority.
- 5) The consultation on this proposal has been very extensive, reasonable and robust.

Further, having considered all of the responses to the statutory consultation, the proposal to increase the number of pupil numbers of Barndale House Special School from 60 to 110 through the creation of a 50-place satellite site in Amble is approved for the following reasons:

- 1) There is currently no specialist provision within the Coquet Partnership, therefore the educational rationale to create provision for children and young people with SEMH, ASD, MLD and SLCN needs in this area of the county to meet the demonstrated growing need is sound.
- 2) Furthermore, the creation of specialist provision within the Coquet Partnership will enable this vulnerable group of young people to be educated within, or as close, to their home communities as possible, reducing the need for long journeys to school and supporting their ability to make local friendships.
- 3) The Governing Body of Barndale House Special School is fully supportive of the rationale and the proposal.
- 4) The funding of £5.6m for the necessary works to the proposed building at the current JCSC South Avenue site in is in place.
- 5) This consultation has been extensive, reasonable and robust.

53. REPORT OF THE JOINT INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SEND Capacity and Place Planning Strategy

The report advised Cabinet of the development of a 5 year SEND Capacity and Place Planning Strategy (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B, along with the report of the FACS OSC circulated at the meeting).

The report was presented by Councillor Renner Thompson who detailed the key points. He referred to the report from the FACS OSC which had raised a number of points and had supported the report's recommendations.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the approach for growth within the strategy be approved in order to increase capacity in line with predicted demand across Northumberland to meet the needs of children and young people as close to their home communities as possible;
- (b) the annual update of the plan be approved to ensure the information used to plan and grow capacity is reflective of the demand for specialist provision. The update will be reported to both Cabinet and Family and Children Services Scrutiny Committee; and
- (c) the report of the FACS OSC be noted.

54. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

Budget 2023-24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023-2027 05

The report provided an update on the development of the 2023-24 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2023 to 2027 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

The report was presented by Councillor Wearmouth. There was still a great deal of uncertainty regarding the settlement though information had come out about the potential for the adult social care precept to go up and about the council tax ceiling before a referendum was needed, as well as information about a rise in the living wage, increases in school budgets and the household support scheme. The report presented best and worst case scenarios on the budget position. This would be refreshed as time progressed and he would share this with colleagues.

The Leader reported that the Administration would be looking very closely at how to avoid using the 5% increase in council tax in recognition of the difficulties residents were currently facing.

Councillor Wearmouth acknowledged that there was a lot going on in the economy but there was also reason for great optimism because wages were going up and unemployment was at low levels so the Administration would continue with its key priorities.

Councillor Watson asked whether all the information was available now to set the budget. The S151 Officer advised that the Authority would not know its full funding position until the final local government settlement was made towards the end of January. The provisional settlement would give good indications before Christmas however, and a lot of work remained to be done.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revisions to the assumptions (and the risks) within the 2023-24 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan be noted;
- (b) it be noted that
 - i) further work is required to refine the Medium-Term Financial Plan; and,
 - ii) the revenue implications of the capital programme are still to be updated; and,
 - iii) there are still budget balancing measures required to be identified over the term of the Medium-Term Financial Plan; and
- (c) the budget consultation strategy be noted.

55. REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Beaside to Town Centre Cycling and Walking Corridor: Outline Business Case

In accordance with the Energising Blyth Programme - Local Assurance Framework, the report sought the approval of the Town Deal Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Beaside to Town Centre Cycling & Walking Corridor project which was pending approval by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The OBC had been externally appraised with a recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case (FBC). It was approved by Town Deal Board on 28 September 2022 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix D).

Councillor Ploszaj presented the report, detailing the key points. Councillor Wearmouth added that the County Council had set aside funding of £2.1m in the capital programme to match fund the programme.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Beaside to Town Centre Cycling & Walking Corridor project to enable progression to Full Business Case;

- (b) authority be delegated, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's s151 Officer following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case and report the capital implications to Capital Strategy Group for inclusion in the Capital Programme; and
- (c) approval be delegated to the Executive Director to execute all contracts relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.

56. REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Northumberland Energy Park (NEP1) – Dock Capping Beam: Updated North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) Full Business Case

In accordance with the Energising Blyth Programme - Local Assurance Framework, the report sought the approval of the Town Deal Summary Document which sets out details of an adjusted NEP1 Infrastructure investment which was pending approval by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Members had previously approved an application on 7th December 2021 from Port of Blyth for the original NEP1/Battleship Wharf Project Business Case proposal to build an internal heavy duty access link between NEP1, NEP 2 and Battleship Wharf but this could no longer proceed due to Subsidy Control limitations. An updated NELEP Full Business Case for an alternative scheme and applicant (Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Ltd) towards a new capping beam which will allow the Ash Barge Dock deep water berth (part of NEP1) to become fully operational had been externally appraised with a recommendation to proceed. It was approved by Town Deal Board on 28 September 2022 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix E).

Councillor Ploszaj presented the report, detailing the key points.

Councillor Wearmouth added that he and Councillor Ploszaj had visited the JDR Cables site earlier. The dock capping beam was a critical piece of infrastructure for the area and companies such as JDR Cables were coming to the area because the Administration had been proactive in its regeneration initiatives to put these kind of things in place.

Councillors Watson and Renner Thompson advised that they would not vote on this report.

The Leader expressed his thanks to Advance and all other partners for their work on this initiative.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the updated NELEP Full Business Case (FBC) for the NEP1 capping beam works in support of the Project Adjustment Request to DLUHC;
- (b) authority be delegated, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's s151 Officer following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to report the capital implications to Capital Strategy Group for inclusion in the Capital Programme subject to funding confirmation by DLUHC; and
- (c) Cabinet approve the request to spend £500k Town Deal funding and approve an allocation of £31,621 from the Energising Blyth (EB) Programme Medium Term Financial Plan, towards the installation of a capping beam.

57. REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Northern Gateway Phase 2: Outline Business Case

In accordance with the Energising Blyth Programme - Local Assurance Framework, the report sought the approval of the Town Deal Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Regent Street Improvements (Northern Gateway Phase 2) project which was pending approval by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The OBC had been externally appraised with a recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case (FBC). It was approved by Town Deal Board on 28 September 2022. (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix F).

Councillor Ploszaj presented the report, detailing the key points.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Northern Gateway Phase 2 project to enable progression to Full Business Case;
- (b) authority be delegated, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's s151 Officer following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case and report the capital implications to Capital Strategy Group for inclusion in the Capital Programme; and
- (c) authority be delegated to the Executive Director to execute all contracts relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.

58. REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Northumberland County Council Rationale for the Establishment or Continuation of a Council-owned Company

The report proposed a statement of principles and criteria which formed the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) to determine the rationale for the establishment or continuation of any company established by Northumberland County Council (NCC) under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 or other appropriate powers (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix G).

Councillor Wearmouth presented the report and drew members' attention to the key points.

Councillors Watson and Renner Thompson sought advice from the Monitoring Officer about whether they needed to leave the chamber for this item. The Monitoring Officer advised that as the report was about the overall business strategy and not a specific company, then members did not need to leave the room. However with regard to the next item on the agenda, those members who were Advance directors would need to leave and not take part.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Strategic Outline Case criteria for the Establishment or Continuation of a Council-Owned company, as attached at Annexe A to the report.

59. REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Applying the Council-Owned Company Rationale to Advance Northumberland Ltd and Update on the Business Strategy Review

Following approval of a statement of principles and tests for establishing or continuing Council-owned companies established under the Localism Act or other appropriate power, as proposed by the Independent Governance Review (The 'Caller Review') and under action 22 of the subsequent Plan of Action, the report set out the outcome of applying the agreed criteria to Advance Northumberland Ltd (ANL), as an existing company of Northumberland County Council, and provided an update on the Advance Northumberland Ltd Review of Business Strategy (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix H).

Councillors Renner Thompson and Watson left the chamber whilst this matter was dealt with, along with Rick O'Farrell and William Thompson.

The report was presented by Councillor Wearmouth who detailed the key points of the report. The Leader thanked Sarah McMillan for her work on this and expressed his support for Advance.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) having applied the agreed Strategic Outline Case (SOC) criteria for the establishment or continuation of Council owned companies, Cabinet agree that Advance Northumberland Ltd continues to provide significant benefits to the County as an effective mechanism to deliver the economic growth and jobs, regeneration and place shaping priorities of the Council, contributing to economic growth, tackling inequalities and value for money;
- (b) Cabinet endorse the findings, proposed strategic direction and emerging recommendations from the Advance Northumberland Ltd Review of Business Strategy, set out in the report and endorsed by the Advance Northumberland Ltd Board; and
- (c) Cabinet note that further work is continuing to take forward the Business Strategy Review, including an external financial review, and, as the review continues, further recommendations may come forward to Cabinet as the Company's shareholder, where approval is required.

60. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

Future of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd and Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd

The purpose of the report was to:

- A.** recommend a course of action for approval by Cabinet regarding the future status of the Council's wholly-owned company Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd and its subsidiary company Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd, in light of current trading activity or prospects;
- B.** propose the Role Profile for the Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd Controlling Shareholder's Representative ("CSR");
- C.** propose the appointment of the Executive Director of Finance as CSR of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd to provide alignment and uniformity with the Council's other wholly-owned company, Advance Northumberland Ltd (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix I).

Councillor Ploszaj declared an interest in this report as a Director of NEHL and this applied to Councillor Renner Thompson as well, though he had not returned to the chamber from the previous agenda item. He left the chamber and Councillor Watson returned.

Councillor Wearmouth briefed members on the key points of the report and the Leader invited the S151 Officer to comment on it. The S151 Officer advised that officers had considered carefully whether to make NEHL dormant and the material consideration had been the VAT registration of NEHL as the holding company for the wider group. There were no immediate prospects of creating new trading companies but if this was the wish in future, then NEHL would have to reapply for VAT registration so making it dormant was the sensible thing to do.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree that Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd be made dormant (as per Option 3 at para 5.2 below and set out in detail in Appendix A);
- (b) Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd be dissolved (as per Option 5 at para 5.2 below and set out in detail in Appendix A);
- (c) Cabinet approve the following changes to the respective Boards to facilitate the administration, namely:
 - Remove Rick O’Farrell, Wojciech Ploszaj and Guy Renner-Thompson as Directors of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd,
 - Appoint William Thompson to join Phil Hunter and Councillor Lynne Grimshaw as Director of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd,
 - Remove Kelly Gardner and Rick O’Farrell as Directors of Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd,
 - Appoint Phil Hunter and William Thompson to join Councillor Lynne Grimshaw as Directors of Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd;
- (d) Cabinet agree to the termination by Northumbria Integrated Consultancy Ltd of the Framework Agreement, as novated, dated 20th June 2020 with Rong Qiao;
- (e) the “Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd CSR Role Profile” be adopted as attached at Appendix D;
- (f) Cabinet appoint the Executive Director of Finance as the CSR of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd; and
- (g) the CSR be authorised to request the Board of Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Ltd to execute the approved actions.

Councillors Ploszaj and Renner Thompson returned to the chamber along with Rick O’Farrell and William Thompson at this point.

61. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022

The report presented the updated Adult Social Care Market Position Statement (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix J).

Councillor Pattison provided some detailed background for members on the report.

The Leader commended staff for keeping on top of the situation and asked when members might expect a progress report. Mr Bradley replied that this could be brought whenever members wanted to see it.

It was noted that this had been considered by Health and Wellbeing OSC who had welcomed the report.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Market Position Statement be published; and
- (b) the report of the Health and Wellbeing OSC be noted.

62. REPORT OF THE JOINT INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Family Hubs Development Update

The report provided an update in relation to the development of the Family Hubs offer in Northumberland (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix K).

The report was presented by Councillor Renner Thompson.

Councillor Stewart thanked Councillor Renner Thompson for recently visiting the family hub in Prudhoe and the fantastic youth service which also used the facilities there.

The Leader welcomed the extra money from Government on this. He acknowledged that change was always difficult but this transition would work very well for those involved. Mr Reiter advised members that a further bid had been submitted for trailblazer funding for the Council to be one of fifteen authorities to drive this forward faster.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree that this is a key priority in terms of the delivery of services for children and families in Northumberland and note that it is a significant element of the Council's Inequalities plan;
- (b) Cabinet support the ongoing developments in relation to further integration of services for older young people; and
- (c) Cabinet support the ongoing requirements for system transformation in relation to governance, data sharing and gathering, workforce, communications and participation;

63. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group

The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group (CSG) via email on 6 October 2022 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix L).

63.1 Charlton Project – Hirst Park:

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve capital expenditure of £15,000 from the Parks Enhancement Capital Programme for 2022/23 in respect of NCC's contribution to the provision of a statue celebrating football legend Jack Charlton and interpretation panels highlighting Ashington's unique footballing heritage that will be installed within Hirst Park in Ashington.

63.2 Local Authority Treescape Fund:

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the inclusion of a grant of £81,815 in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan profiled as in Paragraph 7.5 below. The grant will be received from the Local Authority Treescape Fund (round 2) administered by the Forestry Commission for the Great Northumberland Forest.

63.3 HRA Affordable Housing – Riverbrook Gardens, Alnwick:

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve a proposal to acquire 8 x 2 bedroom section 106 units on the Story Homes Riverbrook Gardens Development off Alnmouth Road in Alnwick at a cost of £1,008,000 representing £126,000 per unit. The acquisition will be funded through the Affordable Homes budget line for 2023/24 in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

63.4 Commissioners Quay

Councillors Watson and Renner Thompson declared interests in this matter and did not take part in the decision making.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- Approve a capital grant award, and the associated budget requirement within the 2022-23 capital programme, of £58,392 to Advance Northumberland in respect of Commissioners Quay. The project will in turn be funded by grant provided to Northumberland County Council from North of Tyne Combined Authority.
- Accept the associated Brownfield Housing Fund grant from North of Tyne Combined Authority £58,392.

63.5 Contracts in excess of Delegated Limits:

On 21st September 2022, Cabinet approved the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Energy Central Campus Phase 1 - Learning Hub to enable progression to Full Business Case and delegated authority to the Council's s151 Officer to approve the Full Business Case and report the capital implications to Capital Strategy Group for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED that Cabinet now delegate approval to the Head of Paid Service or nominated Executive Director to enter into contract with the main contractor relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed up to the value of £9,714,759.

64. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
18	3 -Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).
19	1 - Information relating to an individual
AND	The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the interest in disclosure because disclosure could adversely affect the business reputation or confidence in the person / organisation; and could adversely affect commercial revenue (item 18) and because disclosure could identify the individual (item 19).

65. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Leisure Review - Findings of the Review of NCC Supported Leisure Provision and Consideration of Future Management and Procurement Arrangements

Following completion of an extensive review of Council funded leisure provision the report provided an overview of key findings and outlined a

proposed course of action to maximise both the health and wellbeing potential, and value, of future investment (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix M, coloured pink and marked Not for Publication).

The report was presented by Councillor Watson who detailed the key points for members. He supported the report's recommendations, adding that a lot more information and investigation was needed to secure the best possible deal for the leisure centres as well as meeting the Administration's priorities. The review had highlighted a number of issues as the management agreement had not been looked at for a number of years.

Undertaking the leisure review in the context of the major drive to address inequalities within Northumberland had presented the opportunity to focus future investment based on evident need and this was welcomed by the Leader. He felt it was important to carry the review forward looking at all the options to achieve the best service possible.

The Leader moved an additional recommendation to review and enhance the NCC identity on the signage at leisure centres, which was seconded.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) recommendations 1-7 as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (b) a review be undertaken of the signage at each of the County's leisure centres in order to enhance the NCC identity.

66. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group

The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group (CSG) via email on 6 October 2022 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix N, coloured pink and marked Not for Publication).

RESOLVED that the recommendation as detailed in the report be approved.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....