



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL

DATE: 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Establishment of Rights of Way Committee and other Governance Matters

Report of the Director of Law and Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, Stephen Gerrard

1. Link to the Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report links to all aims and priorities of the 2023-2026 Corporate Plan.

2. Purpose of report

- (1) To make arrangements for the discharge of the non-executive functions of the County Council through the appointment of the Rights of Way Committee, following the review of Local Area Committees undertaken earlier this year and agreed by Council in June, to appoint Members to that committee in accordance with the proportionality of the Council, including the Chair and Vice Chair, and to agree its terms of reference.
- (2) To receive the name of the Cabinet Member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing.
- (3) To appoint a number of Chair and Vice Chair places on Committees.
- (4) To nominate Members to the outside bodies listed in paragraph 5.3.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Establishes the Rights of Way Committee, agrees its size and terms of reference detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report, and appoints the Chair and Vice Chair;**
- 2. Receives the name of the Cabinet Member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing from the Leader;**
- 3. Appoints:**
 - Councillor Richard Dodd as Chair of Health and Wellbeing OSC**
 - Councillor Eve Chicken as Vice Chair of FACS OSC**
 - Councillor Catherine Seymour as Vice Chair of Licensing/Licensing and Regulatory Committees**

Councillor Anna Watson as Vice Chair of the Local Plan Working Group
Councillor Veronica Jones as Vice Chair of the Inequalities Working Group.

4. **Nominates Members to the outside bodies listed in paragraph 5.3**
5. **Authorises the Director of Law and Corporate Governance, in consultation with the appropriate Group Leader(s), to make any changes to memberships of the main outside bodies/ joint bodies approved by Council, which may become necessary during the course of 2023/24.**

4. **Key issues**

The Council agreed in May 2023 to re-establish a Rights of Way Committee as part of the Review of Local Area Committees.

The change in portfolio holder for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing from Councillor David Ferguson to Councillor Veronica Jones initiated a number of changes to Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions and Council is asked to approve the resulting changes to these positions, as well as the Vice Chair of the Local Plan Working Group.

Some minor changes to outside body nominations are also requested.

5. **Background**

5.1 **Rights of Way Committee**

Appointment of Committees is not an executive function and falls to the Council to determine the arrangements which can include delegation of functions to a committee as recommended here.

Rights of Way Committee

Membership

9 members (4:3:1 Ind Gp, 1 LD) (One Con place gifted to Green Party)

Quorum – 3

Chair: J.I. Hutchinson

Vice Chair: A. Wallace

Conservative	Labour	Independent Group	Liberal Democrats	Green Party	Ind Non-Grouped
C. Hardy	L. Bowman	A. Dale	A. Sharp	M. Swinbank	
J.I Hutchinson	J. Foster				
D. Towns	A. Wallace				

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Appropriate Ward Members be invited to attend.

Terms of Reference:

To exercise the following functions:-

- (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.
- (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
- (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.
- (v) the Council's role in encouraging wider access for all to the County's network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

5.2 Portfolio Holder for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing and Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Following notification by the Leader that Councillor Jones is Portfolio Holder for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing, Council approval is sought to the following appointments as a result:-

Councillor Richard Dodd as Chair of Health and Wellbeing OSC

Councillor Eve Chicken as Vice Chair of FACS OSC

Councillor Catherine Seymour as Vice Chair of Licensing/Licensing and Regulatory Committees

Councillor Anna Watson as Vice Chair of the Local Plan Working Group

Councillor Veronica Jones as Vice Chair of the Inequalities Working Group

5.3 Outside Body Nominations

Council is asked to confirm the following nominations to outside bodies:

Rural Services Network – G. Sanderson, J. Riddle (sub)

Northumberland Coast AONB – L. Bowman to replace M. Murphy

North East Combined Authority – L. Grimshaw to replace M. Murphy and A. Wallace to replace L. Grimshaw as the sub

Decision Options

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1 - Accept all of the recommendations and proposals

Option 2 - Make amendments to the recommendations; or

Option 3 - Reject some or all of the recommendations

Option 1 is the recommended option.

Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

It will ensure that the Council acts in accordance with the provisions of Local Government legislation.

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	The report relates to functions set out in the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and is in line with the Council's Constitution.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	N/A
Carbon reduction	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	N/A
Wards	All

Background papers:

[Review of the effectiveness of LACS \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](http://modern.gov.co.uk)

Report sign off.

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

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Stephen Gerrard
Relevant Executive Director	N/A
Chief Executive	Dr Helen Paterson
Portfolio Holder(s)	N/A

Author and Contact Details

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