

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING
CABINET DECISIONS
AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023**

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
<p>Cabinet Papers – 9 May</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2016</p>
<p>Corporate Plan</p> <p>This report presented the Council’s Corporate Plan for 2023-2026. The Plan built on the progress from the previous Corporate Plan and presented a refreshed vision, and three Council priorities. This refresh took account of the changing operating context and the recommendations of the Independent Review of Governance (‘Caller Review’) which reported to Full Council in June 2022. Moving forward, the three Priorities in the Plan would set the context for the Council’s Budget and Medium-Term Financial planning process. Service planning, the performance framework, and staff appraisal process would all contribute to achieving the priorities.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) recommend to Full Council the new Corporate Plan 2023-26 for adoption at its meeting of 17th May. (2) note the proposal to Full Council to receive and consider an annual Corporate Plan Achievements Report at Full Council in March each year. (3) note the proposal to Full Council to receive and consider an annual Corporate Plan Performance Report at Full Council at the conclusion of Quarter four of the performance cycle.
<p>North East Bus Service Improvement Plan</p> <p>The report outlined the implications of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Northumberland bus services and infrastructure</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the decision of the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, acting together through the North East Joint Transport Committee to make an Enhanced Bus Partnership for the region; (2) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 officer), to accept the funding for bus service improvements, once confirmed, from Transport North East; and

	(3) authorise the creation of a Northumberland Local Bus Board.
Financial Performance 2022-23 – Position at the end of February 2023 (Provisional Outturn 2022-23)	9 May 2023: The report was considered by the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC on 26 June 2023.
Outcomes of the Consultation on Proposals for the Berwick Partnership	9 May 2023: The report was considered by FACS OSC on 4 May 2023.
Public Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Members were informed that a Public Interest Report had been issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) in relation to a complaint raised by a Northumberland County Council resident in relation to the Post 16 Transport Policy.	9 May 2023: To see the full decision, follow this link: https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MIId=2016
Energising Blyth Programme: Culture Hub and Market Place Outline Business Case The report sought the approval of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and project budget for the Culture Hub and Market Place project. This flagship project will initiate the regeneration of Blyth town centre.	9 May 2023: RESOLVED that Cabinet (1) approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) summarised in this report for the Culture Hub and Market Place project to enable progression to Full Business Case (2) approve a total revised budget in the Capital Programme of £14,705,732. There is a current budget in the Capital Programme of £12,536,685 this report requests approval of £2,169,047 drawn from existing Council funds allocated to the Energising Blyth Programme. The project was funded by HM government Future High Streets Fund and the Council as set out in Financial Tables 3-5 (3) note that Jam Jar Cinema Community Interest Company (CIC) will be formally appointed as the main operator of the Culture Hub and that an operator for the Creative Play concession within the facility will be appointed in due course subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations in this report (4) delegate authority, in accordance with the Energising Blyth Local Assurance Framework, to the Council's s151

	<p>Officer following consideration by the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case and report any subsequent capital implications to Cabinet (via the Capital Strategy Group) for inclusion in the Capital Programme</p> <p>(5) delegate approvals to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to enter into any contracts relating to the project subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.</p>
<p>The Future of the Berwick Museum and Art Collections</p> <p>Members were asked to agree the future housing of the Berwick Museum and Art collections in the custodianship of the Council and currently managed by Museums Northumberland within the context of the opportunities and challenges presented by The Living Barracks Initiative.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the retention of the Berwick Museum and art collections as part of The Living Barracks initiative, subject to further discussions with relevant partners on the issues set out at paragraph 47 of the report.</p>
<p>The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2023/24</p> <p>Members received proposals for the allocation in 2023/24 of a Government grant for adult social care. Urgent approval of a broad approach to the use of this grant was required to comply with a grant condition requiring submission of proposals by 24 May.</p>	<p>9 May 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>(1) approve the proposed uses of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) in 2023/24 set out in this report, and the resulting commitments in subsequent years, which it is anticipated can be funded through the increased MSIF grant in 2024/25 and will be covered in later years either by continuation of this grant or by consolidation of the funding into the general local government financial settlement;</p> <p>(2) authorise the Executive Director – Adults, Ageing and Well-Being, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Well-being, to make detailed decisions about the allocation of this grant, within the broad framework set out in this report, taking account of further consultations with care providers and any other relevant information which becomes available.</p>
<p>Cabinet Papers – 13 June</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2247</p>

<p>Ashington Regeneration Programme Establishment – Strategic Sites Acquisition</p> <p>The report update Cabinet regarding the establishment, development and delivery of the £30m Ashington Regeneration Programme, which would have a catalytic impact on the town’s economy and drive forward the implementation of the Ashington Town Investment Plan.</p> <p>The report also sought approval for the strategic acquisition of the Woodhorn Road site and the Wansbeck Square site from Advance Northumberland (Commercial) Limited to create the required development platform to enable implementation of the Ashington Regeneration Programme</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet endorse the Ashington Investment Plan as the overarching strategy that will provide the context, vision and aspirations for delivery of the phased Ashington Regeneration Programme; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree the establishment of the Ashington Regeneration Programme with two initial phases associated with the Ashington High Street Innovation Programme (HSIP) and Town Centre Renewal of Strategic Sites Programme;</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the associated financial profiles as set out in Appendix 1 whilst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsing the bid submitted to extend the HSIP Programme with a funding ask of £576,898 and acceptance of this additional funding into the Medium Term Financial Plan, if successful • approving an initial allocation of £1,000,000 in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be fully funded by the Government to develop plans for Wansbeck Square Strategic Site • approving an initial grant allocation of £600,000 in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be fully funded by the Government to develop plans for Portland Park Strategic Site • authorising the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to enter into contracts up to the value of £1.6m for the development of the strategic sites and delivery of public realm capital works, subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed; <p>(d) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the s151 Officer, to purchase the Woodhorn Road site, at a value up to a maximum of £210,000 from funding already allocated in the Medium Term Financial Plan;</p> <p>(e) Cabinet approve the acquisition of the Wansbeck Square site, and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration, in consultation with the S151 Officer, to acquire the Wansbeck Square site at a value up to a maximum of £1,365,000 with funding from the Strategic Regeneration Projects budget within the Capital Programme; and</p> <p>(f) Cabinet agree the associated programme management and assurance arrangements to support the programme’s delivery as set out in the report</p>
<p>Enhanced Pothole Repair Pilot</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p>

<p>The report sought approval to undertake an ‘invest to save’ trial of first-time patch repair of a proportion of actionable carriageway pothole defects, to quantify the costs and benefits associated with this alternative approach to one of the main revenue funded highway maintenance activities undertaken by the Council.</p>	<p>(a) Cabinet approve the commencement of a 3-month ‘invest to save’ trial of first time patch repair of a proportion of actionable carriageway pothole defects in the North and Tynedale Local Area Committee areas of the County, and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the allocation of £492,600 in revenue funds from the severe weather reserve to fund the pilot scheme.</p>
<p>Potential Loan to Northumberland Community Bank</p> <p>The report provided details of a potential loan facility to Northumberland Community Bank (NCB) of £50,000 towards the capital reserve.</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve a loan facility of £50,000 to Northumberland Community Bank subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCB agreeing to the proposed terms and conditions; • NCC’s Legal Team completing a legal agreement with NCB in advance of any loan drawdown by NCB, containing the terms and conditions set out within this report; and • Subsidy Control implications being investigated and satisfied.
<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Update and Northumberland Delivery</p> <p>The report provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme and the UKSPF funded projects secured by Northumberland County Council to support levelling-up activity across the County.</p>	<p>13 June 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(a) Cabinet endorse the progress and content of the UKSPF Investment and Delivery Plans for the North of Tyne Area;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet welcome and endorse the Northumberland County Council-led UKSPF funded projects, described in this report and summarised in table 1, which secures over £7.085m to deliver a range of levelling-up activities and support for Northumberland’s businesses and residents over 2022 – 2025; and</p> <p>(c) Cabinet endorse the Inclusive Economy Community Partnership project, which, working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), will build capacity and deliver activities in support of the inclusive economy, focused in our most deprived communities and, if successful, accept £0.4m capital and 1.15m revenue funding into the Medium-Term Financial Plan.</p>
<p>Cabinet Papers – 11 July</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2248</p>
<p>Report of the Communities and Place OSC - Firefighters Decontamination</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the recommendation of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee that financial support for the recommendations made by the fire and rescue service be provided to ensure that Northumberland</p>

	<p>leads the way to reduce the risk of contamination and support fire and rescue personnel.</p>
<p>District Heating Update and Partnership Procurement</p> <p>To provide a summary of the progress made across the eight District Heating studies completed for the county, feedback on proposed delivery models for the schemes and seek approval to proceed with the next phase of activity</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet agree that the council's preferred delivery option for District Heating is Model 3 (Supply Framework). Under this model the Council will enter into a framework agreement with a Heat Provider and agree a form of connection and supply agreement to be used for the supply of heat to the Council across the eight towns, namely Alnwick, Ashington, Berwick, Blyth, Cramlington, Hexham, Morpeth and Prudhoe on a town-by town basis as the schemes go-live; (b) Cabinet approve a procurement exercise to select and appoint a legal and commercial advisor to support the procurement activities needed to appoint a Heat Provider. The forecast cost of the external legal and commercial advisor support is ~£160,000, which it is expected will be 100% funded through the NELEP Energy Accelerator Fund at no additional cost to NCC. In the unlikely case that the NELEP do not fund the project a separate request for NCC to provide funding will be made; (c) Cabinet resource and undertake a procurement exercise to appoint a Heat Provider; (d) Cabinet agree to the inclusion of the council's future heat load to be in scope for commercially viable District Heating schemes in each of the eight locations, provided the commercial, economic and net zero tests are met by the Heat Provider; and (e) the timescales for delivery given market competition, be noted.
<p>Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme – Nature Recovery Response</p> <p>To outline the Council's role in leading the region's response to nature recovery as set out in the North East Devolution Deal and, within this context, seek consideration to the declaration of an ecological</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet accept, in principle and subject to the approval of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Cabinet, the role of leading the development of the statutory North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) on behalf of the Combined Authority; (b) Cabinet endorse the Council's role as accountable body for the participation of the English part of the Borderlands area in the Government's Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme;

<p>emergency in Northumberland.</p>	<p>(c) Cabinet accept the anticipated grant awards of £0.285 million and £1.000 million respectively for the development of the North of Tyne LNRS and the delivery of the Borderlands LINC into the Council's revenue budget;</p> <p>(d) Cabinet agree to declaring an ecological emergency to further strengthen the Council's commitment to rural stewardship and to demonstrate the significant role of nature recovery in mitigating the climate emergency;</p> <p>(e) Cabinet develop a response, within the context of our Climate Change Action Plan, to the ecological emergency using our new obligations under the Environment Act 2021 as a framework; namely the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy; the strengthened duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity with a requirement to publish action plans and progress reports; and the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain in the planning system; and</p> <p>(f) A progress report be made to Cabinet in six months.</p>
<p>Asset Management Framework</p> <p>To provide Cabinet with information relating to the new Asset Management Framework for 2023-2026 that has been developed to guide decision making and clearly outline the strategic plans for the estate to 2026.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the purpose and content of the Asset Management Framework for 2023-2026; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Asset Management Framework; as attached at Appendix 1 – and • Receive further updates on the delivery of the Asset Management Framework on a quarterly basis.
<p>Financial Performance 2022-23 – Final Outturn (subject to audit)</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to report the final outturn position (subject to audit) for the Council against the Budget for 2022-23</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new grants and amendments to existing grants at Appendix A and the required changes to the budgets. • the net re-profiling to the Capital Programme of £23.940 million from 2022-23 to 2023-24 to reflect expenditure levels in the financial year; and <p>(b) Cabinet note:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balanced position following a transfer of £5.916 million to the General Fund, after the transfers to Earmarked Reserves agreed as part of the Provisional Outturn report at the Cabinet meeting on 9 May 2023. • that this final outturn is based on the draft Statement of Accounts and is subject to external audit. • the delivery of the approved savings at Appendix B. • the use of the contingency shown at Appendix Q. • the use of reserves shown at Appendix R. • the virements requested by services shown at Appendix S.
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>The report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Children’s Residential Homes:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the reallocation of capital funds of £1.260 million in 2023-24 from Black Close House to purchase six private residential properties which will support the development of multi-building children’s residential homes in Northumberland.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education to enter into a contract(s) for the acquired units as and when they are identified up to the approved budget limit.</p> <p>(b) BT Openreach Gainshare receipt</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the receipt of BT Openreach gainshare funding amounting to £2.145 million.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve the addition of £2.145 million to the Council’s capital expenditure budget in 2023-24 to be split as follows:</p> <p>i) Repayment to Building Digital UK (BDUK) of £0.989 million (46.11% of the total gainshare receipt) as per terms of the Contract; and,</p> <p>ii) £1.156 million into Community Broadband in respect of enabling additional premises to access the £2,500 top up voucher to help provide gigabit connectivity in the hardest to reach areas</p>

	<p>(c) Levelling Up Funding for Rapid Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the receipt of Levelling Up funding amounting to £0.453 million awarded to the Council for the provision of ten new rapid EV chargers to be delivered between April 2023 and March 2025, split as follows: £0.347 million in 2023-24; and, £0.106 million in 2024-25.</p> <p>b) Cabinet note the match funding NCC contribution of £0.050 million (10%) from the existing capital allocation in the Climate Change Capital Fund in 2024-25, creating a total budget of £0.503 million.</p> <p>(d) Alnwick Playhouse – Replacement of Lighting Rig:</p> <p>a) Cabinet approve the creation of a new capital project in 2023-24 for the installation of a new lighting rig at Alnwick Playhouse to ensure that the main auditorium is fully health and safety compliant.</p> <p>b) Cabinet approve the reallocation of capital funds of £0.100 million in 2023-24 from Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) to Alnwick Playhouse Lighting Rig to fund installation of the new rig.</p> <p>c) Cabinet note that the Strategic Regeneration Projects budget will reallocate £0.100 million to the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) project in 2024-25.</p>
<p>Energising Blyth Programme: Levelling Up Deep Dive</p> <p>To update Cabinet regarding the establishment, development and delivery of the £20.71m Levelling Up Deep Dive (LUDD) funding awarded to Blyth earlier this year. The report explains how this funding will be added to the Energising Blyth programme in the town to have a catalytic impact on the town's economy and drive forward the implementation of the Blyth Town Investment Plan.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet accept the award of £20.71m Levelling Up Deep Dive capital and revenue funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and it's use as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add £19,630,000 to the Capital Programme as an identified budget allocation for the capital projects identified in this report. • Add £1,080,000 as an identified revenue budget for the revenue funded projects and programme management arrangements outlined in this report; <p>(b) Cabinet note that the funding will be used to deliver new initiatives to support the delivery of the Blyth Town Investment Plan as part of the Energising Blyth Programme including 'Welcoming and Safe Blyth',</p>

<p>This report seeks approval to accept this funding award from UK Government and to take a number of key early steps to enable the implementation of key projects</p>	<p>'Housing Renewal and Town Centre Living' and 'Energy Central Campus: Technical Training Kit';</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the associated financial profiles as set out in the report fully funded by the Levelling Up Deep Dive and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a new Blyth Empty Homes Team in 2023 for two years from appointment • Authorise the S151 officer in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to enter into internal grant funding agreement for the empty homes team revenue costs subject to confirmation of funding being in place and local assurance being followed • Authorise the S151 officer in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to approve initial design fees up to the value of £1,993,469 across the programme • The associated programme management and assurance arrangements to support the programme's delivery as set out in the report. This includes the appointment of a Senior Programme Officer in 2023 to support the programme funded for two years from appointment drawn from the revenue budget above.
<p>Environmental Enforcement Fixed Penalty Notice and Penalty Notice Policy 2023</p> <p>To present the revised Environmental Enforcement Fixed Penalty and Penalty Notice Policy 2023 for consideration and adoption.</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet agree and adopt the proposed policy; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree and adopt the fine levels given in the schedule of the policy.</p>
<p>Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Service for Northumberland – Permission to Award Contract</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide the background to the need to provide a drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service as part of the Council's statutory public health functions, to confirm that the procurement exercise</p>	<p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the award of the contract to the successful contractor for £3,356,709 per annum. The maximum contract period is October 2023 – March 2030.</p>

has commenced, and to seek permission to award the contract once the exercise is complete	
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FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<p>BEST Delivery Partner Delegated Decision</p> <p>On 14th March 2023, Cabinet approved the key decision to proceed with the Tendering and Procurement of Delivery Partners who will be engaged to work alongside us on the delivery of the priorities identified in the strategic business case and support the design and delivery of projects included in the scope of the delivery of the Strategic Business Case (as agreed at Cabinet on 17th January 2023).</p> <p>The 'BEST: Delivery Partner Delegated Decision Report' seeks approval of the recommendation for a key decision in relation to delegating the signing of the contract for the BEST Delivery Partner to the Council 's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/K.Gardner - 07814484613/ P. Hindhaugh - 07976 886600</p>	12 September 2023
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 Position at the end of June 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 30 June 2023.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/J. Willis - 01670 623424</p>	12 September 2023
<p>Potential Loan to Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council</p> <p>The Report requests members to approve the potential loan facility to Whittingham Callaly and Alnham Parish Council. The loan has been requested due to an error on the 2023-24 precept form and the funds are required for the Parish Council to operate during 2023-24.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/J. Willis - 01670 623424</p>	12 September 2023
<p>Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>To agree the scope and targets to be addressed in detail in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26.</p> <p>G. Sanderson/N. Johnston - 0447966334778</p>	12 September 2023
<p>Data Academy Pilot</p> <p>Investing via levy funding to upskill Northumberland County Council with data skills with an initial pilot cohort of three potential courses ranging from academic level 3, 4, and 4-6 that relate to upskilling in data using monies from NCC's levy funding budget.</p> <p>R. Wearmouth/A. Kingham - 01670 622742</p>	10 October 2023

<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations The legal duty imposed on public bodies since 2006 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity has been significantly strengthened through a legislative amendment to a requirement to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity, with a planning and reporting framework that has to be complied with. This report sets out the implications of this duty for the Council and sets out the actions that need to be taken over the next year to comply with it.</p> <p>C. Horncastle/D. Feige - 0777 429 5253</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p>
<p>Leisure Programme Update To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463</p>	<p>12 December 2023</p>
<p>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</p> <p>(R. Wearmouth/Alison Elsdon 01670 622168/07796652072)</p>	<p>16 January 2024</p> <p>Council 17 January 2024 21 February 2024</p>
<p>Leisure Programme Update To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p>