

DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET SINCE LAST OSC MEETING AND FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2023

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
<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 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

<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 emergency in Northumberland.</p>	<p>(e) the timescales for delivery given market competition, be noted.</p> <p>11 July 2023:</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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> <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.

Financial Performance 2022-23 – Final Outturn (subject to audit)

The purpose of the report is to report the final outturn position (subject to audit) for the Council against the Budget for 2022-23

11 July 2023:

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Cabinet approve:
 - 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
- (b) Cabinet note:
 - 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.

Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group

The report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group.

11 July 2023:

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Children’s Residential Homes:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- (b) BT Openreach Gainshare receipt

	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, 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>(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,</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</p>

<p>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>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>for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and its 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', '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 has commenced, and to seek permission to award the contract once the exercise is complete</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>
<p>Cabinet Papers – 12 September</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2256</p>
<p>BEST: Delivery Partner Delegated Decision</p> <p>The report sought delegated authority for the Council’s Executive Director of Transformation and Resources to enter into a contract for the BEST Delivery Partner in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to enter into a contract for the BEST Delivery Partner.</p>
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at the end of June 2023</p>	<p>To be considered by the CSEG OSC on 25 September 2023.</p>
<p>Loan to Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council</p> <p>The report provided details of a potential loan facility to Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council (WCAPC) of £4,435 towards the capital reserve.</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve a loan facility of £4,435 to WCAPC subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCAPC agreeing to the proposed terms and conditions; and • NCC’s Legal Team completing a legal agreement with WCAPC in advance of any loan drawdown by WCAPC, containing the terms and conditions set out within the report.
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by</p>	<p>12 September 2023</p>

Officer Capital Strategy Group

1 Family Hub Grant

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Approve the receipt of the capital element of the Family Hub grant of £0.063 million in 2023-24 and £0.059 million in 2024-25 and update the capital programme; and
- b) Grant delegated authority for the Executive Director of Children, Education and Young people to enter into contracts for the appropriate items of capital expenditure as and when they are identified up to the approved total budget limited.

2 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management schemes

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the updated expenditure of £0.118 million and the amendment of the budget allocations within the Capital Programme for Otterburn Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme and Red Row Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme.

3 Lilidorei Play Village – Additional funding from Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH)

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the inclusion of the £0.500 million funding already received from DLUCH and update the Capital Programme.

4 Levelling Up Funds – Hexham to Corbridge and Bedlington East to West

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Accept the funds from the Levelling up Fund Tranche 2 of £14.712 million;
- b) Approve funds in line with the costs outlined in the table set out in paragraph 9.5; and
- c) Approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £2.000 million from the existing allocation for Local Cycling and Walking Programme.

5 Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden, Bedlington Cemetery

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- a) Approve capital expenditure totalling £0.043 million for improvements to the West Bedlington Cemetery Garden of Remembrance; and
- b) Approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.027 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Capital Programme and £0.017 million from Cllr Malcolm Robinson’s Members’ Local Improvement Scheme Funds.

6 Telecare Digital Switch

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the allocation of £0.547 million from the Adult Social Care Capital Grant in the Capital Programme to implement the capital project.

Additional Market Sustainability and Improvement Grant

RESOLVED that:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Cabinet endorse the overall approach to the use of the additional Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) set out in paragraphs 6.28 to 6.30 of the report; andb. the Executive Director for Adults, Ageing & Wellbeing be authorised to agree detailed allocations of expenditure within that overall approach, and to manage the overall resources available from the MSIF and the Adult Social Care Discharge fund flexibly to as to maximise the benefits for people with care and support needs, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Caring for Adults, and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources.
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FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<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>Environment Policy Statement</p> <p>The report proposes the adoption of an overarching Environmental Policy Statement by Northumberland County Council to more clearly identify and communicate how the diverse range of environmental policy and service delivery activities undertaken by the Council are all part of its commitment to maintain, protect and enhance the environment. If the Environmental Policy Statement set out in the report is approved, it is intended that this will then be used to help support improved public awareness, engagement and active participation on environmental matters.</p> <p>G. Sanderson/ P. Jones - 0771 7714523</p>	10 October 2023
<p>Food & Feed, Safety & Standards Service Plan 2023/24</p> <p>The Purpose of this report is to present for its consideration and endorsement, the Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan for 2023/24</p> <p>G. Stewart/M. Mitchell - 01670 623796</p>	10 October 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>	10 October 2023
<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations</p> <p>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>	7 November 2023

<p>Leisure Programme Update</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>17 January 2024</p> <p>21 February 2024</p>
<p>Leisure Programme Update</p> <p>To update Cabinet with progress on the Leisure programme</p> <p>J. Watson/M. Donnelly 07517 553463</p>	<p>9 April 2024</p>