



Northumberland
County Council

Communities and Place OSC

Councillor Gordon Stewart
Portfolio - Looking After Our Communities

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Registration Service

- Implementation of the Medical Examiner Service on a statutory basis from April 2024. This will ensure that all deaths, whether natural cause or a matter for the coroner receive independent scrutiny.
- Benefit realisation exercise to be taken to understand the impact of the death notification service provided by 'Settld' on bereaved families.
- Continuance of advertising and promotional campaign for 'My Northumberland Wedding'. Building upon the reputation Northumberland has as an aspirational ceremony county and promoting the local economy.
- Work with local schools across the county to introduce a programme whereby school children have an opportunity to attend a British Citizenship ceremony and learn more about what citizenship means to their community and society.

Coroner Service

- Merger of North Northumberland and South Northumberland coroner areas to complete. The new jurisdiction will be known as 'Northumberland'. This will conclude April 2024, and is dependent upon the Parliamentary timetable.
- Changes applied to the Treasure Act 1996 which will broaden the definition of 'treasure' for the purpose of a coroner investigation and treasure inquest. Updated Code of Practice deployed from 30 July 2023 will impact upon the volume of treasure inquests.
- Implementation of the statutory Medical Examiner Service from April 2024.
- Negotiations with Northumbria NHS Trust regarding body storage, and associated pathology costs.
- Body removal and public health funeral tender for Northumberland County Council to be issued.

Fire & Rescue Directorate

Fire & Rescue Service

- Deliver Service improvements as outlined in our Continuous Improvement Plan
- Deliver the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Risk Model for Dwelling Fires
- National Fire Standards Implementation
- Further develop our Community Risk and Response Operating Model
- Undertake a review of Response Standards for Northumberland

Civil Contingencies

- Work with the Local Resilience Forum to shape and deliver one of 8 national 'Stronger LRF' pilots
- Finalise the Council's business continuity policy and strategy, review the corporate BC plan
- Plan and deliver statutory multi-agency COMAH exercise
- Embed formal strategic and tactical response officer cadres in Council emergency activation and response
- Continue to work with NCT to deliver a County wide approach to Community Resilience
- Finalise a bespoke incident management system for use within NCC

Fire & Rescue Directorate

Public Protection

- Continue the work with His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) to transfer part of the work undertaken by the Land Charges team in Public Protection to HMLR, as required by the Infrastructure Act 2015
- The Food & Feed, Safety & Standards Service Plan 2023/24 has been completed and is starting the formal process to go through the Committee stages
- Monitor data, following the successful bid and receipt of a £33K grant from the Rural Payments Agency 16 new CCTV have been deployed in Blyth and Ashington to help support the council's overall initiative to tackle fly tipping in these 'hot spot' areas.
- First NCC Building Control surveyor has undertaken assessment to be competent under Building Safety Act, more to follow soon. The passing of this assessment is going to be legally required by April 2024
- Deliver against risk-based inspection plans for the service

Coroner Service Registration Service

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Fire & Rescue Directorate

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