

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

DECISION	CABINET DATE/DECISION
<p>Cabinet Papers – 10 October 2023</p> <p>Environmental Policy Statement</p> <p>To propose the adoption of an overarching Environmental Policy Statement by Northumberland County Council.</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2257</p> <p>10 October 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet maintain its commitment to tackling climate change and to the development of a new Climate Change Action Plan which will set out the actions, work programme and targets that will be progressed over the period 2024 to 2026;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet adopt the Environmental Policy Statement and continuously strive to meet the on-going commitments contained within the statement (see Appendix A) and the actions and targets (see Appendix B) to the report;</p> <p>(c) the Environment Policy Statement be widely communicated and publicised to help raise public awareness, engagement and active participation on environmental matters across the county and</p> <p>(d) Cabinet note the ‘Potential Areas of Additional Environmental Activity’ outlined in section 5.4 of the report. It is intended that these additional areas of activity will be subject to further development and, where appropriate, any associated budget implications will be considered as part of this year’s MTFP budget setting process.</p>
<p>Building our Data Capability - Data Academy Pilot</p> <p>The purpose of this report was to outline the need to develop our data skills and capabilities and seek approval for the proposed establishment of a ‘Data Academy’ and associated use of unallocated Apprenticeship Levy to fund.</p>	<p>10 October 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the awarding of a pilot programme in data skill apprenticeships to the apprenticeship provider ‘Multiverse’ with a Government Levy spend of £0.6m (excluding VAT).</p>
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p>	<p>10 October 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>Ponteland to Callerton Phase 2</p>

	<p>(a) Cabinet approve the revised phase 2 approach and approve the additional funds of £0.518 million to deliver phase 2 and progress to scheme completion; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet approve the inclusion of £0.518 million to the Capital Programme in 2023-24.</p>
<p>Corporate Performance – Quarter 4 2022/23 Outturn</p> <p>This report provides a summary of the progress against the Council’s three Corporate Plan priorities using the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 4, 2022/23 (Q4)</p>	<p>10 October 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the progress against the three Corporate Priorities as summarised in the report; and</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree to progress against the three Corporate Priorities at end of Quarter 4 2022/23 being reported to Full Council at its November meeting.</p>
<p>Food & Feed, Safety & Standards Service Plan 2023/24</p> <p>The purpose of this report was to present to the Cabinet, for its consideration the Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan for 2023/24</p>	<p>10 October 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet receives and adopts the Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan for 2023/24.</p>
<p>Cabinet Papers - 7 November 2023</p>	<p>https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=2258</p>
<p>North East Devolution</p> <p>The report asked members to consider and determine if consent should be given to the making of an Order that would abolish the North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, whilst at the same time establishing a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>(a) the content of the report be noted;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet agree in principle that the Council should consent to the making of the order;</p> <p>(c) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to issue the Council’s formal consent to the Secretary of State when requested;</p> <p>(d) the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the terms of the side agreement regarding the support arrangements associated with these proposals; and</p> <p>(e) the Chief Executive be authorised to take all other steps necessary to implement these proposals</p>

Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26

7 November 2023

RESOLVED that:-

Cabinet was asked to agree the scope and targets to be addressed in detail in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 and to ensure alignment with the Council's Environment Policy Statement

- (a) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 is a key element of the Council's wider Environmental Policy Statement, which commits the Council to strengthen the work being undertaken to maintain, protect and enhance the environment through a broad range of policies and activities, including active travel, nature recovery, planning, procurement, public health/disease control and general environmental services provision;
- (b) Cabinet agree that the Climate Change Action Plan will include a focus on greenhouse gas reduction and climate change resilience through nature in collaboration with the Council's strategies for wider ecology and biodiversity issues;
- (c) Cabinet agree to restate the Carbon Neutral target for the county by 2030 and clarify that it refers to carbon dioxide only;
- (d) Cabinet agree a new target to work with Government and other key stakeholders to achieve net-zero for all greenhouse gases for the county of Northumberland by 2040, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;
- (e) Cabinet agree that the local and regional adaptation response to the risks and impacts of a changing climate be included in the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;
- (f) Cabinet agree a new target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, a strategy for which will be developed as part of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26;
- (g) Cabinet agree that the scope of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 continues to only include direct, territorial emissions (i.e. those produced in Northumberland) as its focus for projects but that it should do more to raise awareness amongst stakeholders of scope 3 (indirect) emissions (i.e. those produced outside of Northumberland) and how they can be reduced; and
- (h) Cabinet agree the core structure of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 including a commitment to set out a strategy for planning in relation to the climate change targets.

<p>Strengthened Biodiversity Duty and Reporting Obligations</p> <p>The report set out the Council's new obligations to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to report on such actions, and proposed a 'first consideration' of such actions as required under S.40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet accept the document attached to the report as a record of the Council's first consideration of actions the Council can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in accordance with S.40 (1C) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended, which will then be used by Officers to develop an implementation plan.</p>
<p>Approval of the Council Tax Scheme</p> <p>The report sought approval for the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25 to continue to provide support at a maximum level of 92% of council tax liability.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to be adopted as the Council's local scheme for 2024-25.</p>
<p>Corporate Feedback Performance 2022/2023</p> <p>The Annual Report reviewed the operation of the complaints process over twelve months (01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023), including statistical data, and provided the local authority with how it keeps itself informed about the effectiveness of its current arrangements for handling customer complaints.</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that the findings of the report on complaint handling within the authority be noted.</p> <p>This report will be considered by the Communities and Place OSC on 29 November 2023.</p>
<p>Corporate Performance Quarter 1 2023-24</p> <p>The report provided a summary of the progress against the Council's three Corporate Plan priorities using the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 1, 2023/24 (Q1).</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that progress against the three Corporate Priorities as summarised in the report be noted.</p>
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>46.1 Kyloe House CCTV Upgrade</p>

Officer Capital Strategy Group

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

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Cabinet approve the receipt of the capital grant of £0.221 million from the Department for Education (DfE); and
- (b) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the funding and spend.

46.2 Replacement of Boating Pontoon in Wansbeck Riverside Park

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposed spend on the Boating Pontoon and amend the Capital Programme in 2023-24. Note that the project will be wholly grant funded under an agreement with Cambois Rowing Club.

46.3 Highways Laboratory Expansion

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the expenditure of the £0.615 million which is already included in the MTFP under Highways Laboratory Expansion project; and
- (b) Cabinet note that a portion of the allocation will be slipped into financial year 2024-25. This is currently anticipated to be 50% but will be dependent on the date of approval.

46.4 North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Cabinet note the agreement for the North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) to release BSIP capital funding to assist scheme promoters with development of the programme;
- (b) Cabinet approve the BSIP capital funding to develop the “Bus Priority Infrastructure – Tranche 1” programme; and
- (c) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include £0.121 million funding from Transport North East (TNE) to enable development of the BSIP Tranche 1 programme.

46.5 Parks Enhancement Capital Programme

1. **Cleasewell Hill Park**

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Approve capital expenditure of up to £0.240 million for the refurbishment scheme at Cleasewell Hill Park;

(b) Approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.200 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.040 million contribution from Choppington Parish Council which has been agreed in principle subject to formal approval; and

(c) Note that if funding of £0.040 million from Choppington Parish Council is not received works will be scaled back and expenditure will be limited to £0.200 million.

2. **Gallagher Park**

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.019 million for car park repairs, overflow provision and fencing at Gallagher Park; and

(b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.010 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme and £0.009 million from Cllr Robinson, Cllr Taylor, and Cllr Wilciezk's Members' Local Improvement Scheme funds.

3. **Plessey Woods – Bouldering Park**

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet approve capital expenditure totalling £0.159 million for Plessey Woods Bouldering Park; and

(b) Cabinet approve the reallocation in the Capital Programme of £0.088 million from the existing Parks Enhancement Programme, £0.067 million from Section 106 contributions and £0.005 million from Cllr Robinson's Members' Local Improvement Scheme funds.

46.6 Strategic Regeneration Investment

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet accept grant funding to establish the Northumberland Stewardship and Rural Growth Investment Programme as follows, noting that the establishment of the programme and projects below was previously agreed by Cabinet in February 2023:

- Accept grant funding of £4.810 million including £2.000 million capital and £2.810 million revenue for the Northumberland Small Business Service (NSBS).

- Approve the addition of the £2.000 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report.
- Accept grant funding of £3.510 million including £1.543 million capital and £1.967 million revenue for the Rural Asset Multiplier Programme (RAMP).
- Approve the addition of the £1.543 million capital funding to the Capital Programme in line with the three-year funding profile further in the report.

(b) Cabinet approve the below projects and the reallocation of capital funds of £0.600 million in 2023-24 from the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2). The Strategic Regeneration Projects budget will reallocate £0.600 million to the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) project in 2024-25. Note that the Ashington North East Quarter Redevelopment (Phase 2) does not require the funds in 2023-24 due to slippage in the project delivery.

- Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.500 million in 2023-24 for Hexham HSHAZ Public Realm Scheme.
- Approve the creation of a new capital project in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway and approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.050 million in 2023-24 for the Berwick Gateway.
- Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.010 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Royal Border Bridge Floodlighting Scheme.
- Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 to finalise the successful Rural Business Growth Service project.
- Approve the allocation of capital funds of £0.020 million in 2023-24 for the detailed design of the Alnwick Cobbles Streetscaping scheme.

46.7 Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Cabinet approve the proposed spend of £2.550 million for the Great Northumberland Forest Tenant Lead Pilot and note the funding of £2.550 million from the national Nature for Climate (NfC) fund; and

	(b) Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional £2.550 million (2023-24 £1.500 million and 2024-25 £1.050 million) in the capital programme.
<p>Delegate Authority to Award Leisure Contract</p> <p>The report sought permission to delegate authority to enable the contract award of the Northumberland Community Leisure and Well-being Service to the preferred bidder, following final evaluation by the panel</p>	<p>7 November 2023</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities in consultation with the Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services, the Deputy Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives, the Director of Law and Corporate Governance and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources to award and enter into a contract for the Northumberland Community and Wellbeing Service with the preferred bidder.</p>

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS

<p>Adaptions for Disabled People</p> <p>To report on additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding received from Government, and to ask the Cabinet to consider the case for revisions to the Council's discretionary grants policy.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-28</p> <p>This report provides an update on the development of the 2024-25 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2024 to 2028, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2024-25 in December 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Corporate Risk Management</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the latest position of the County Council's corporate risks following review by Executive Management Team.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Education, SEND and Skills Annual Report</p> <p>Annual Report of the Director of Education, SEND & Skills.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Merger of North and South Northumberland Coroner Areas</p> <p>To seek approval from Cabinet to agree to the merger of the North and South Northumberland coroner areas, to become one Northumberland area effective from 1 April 2024.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Northumberland Leisure and Wellbeing Procurement and Provision</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Northumberland Leisure and Wellbeing Procurement and Provision.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at End of September 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 30 September 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Q2 Corporate Performance Report</p>	12 December 2023
<p>PFI Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) Responsibilities</p> <p>This report seeks governance approval for NCC to take over responsibility for the provision of FF&E for the PFI Fire and Rescue Service buildings at West Hartford and Pegswood, with an annual saving on the PFI unitary charge of £79,471 amounting to £1,192,065 for the remainder of the contract.</p>	12 December 2023

<p>Outcomes of the Tender for New School Buildings for Astley High and Whytrigg Middle Schools</p> <p>Update Cabinet on the outcomes of the tender process for the construction of new school buildings for Astley High School and Whytrigg Middle School and seek the delegated approval to award the construction contract.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Setting of the Council Tax Base 2024-25</p> <p>To advise Cabinet of the tax base calculation for 2024-25 for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group</p> <p>This report details the Capital Proposals considered by the Capital Strategy Group on 30 October 2023.</p>	12 December 2023
<p>Notification of the Estimated Collection Fund Balances 2023-24 – Council Tax and Business Rates</p> <p>The report will advise members of the estimated surplus or deficit balances on the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax and Business Rates at 31 March 2024. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) requires the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax Collection Fund estimate by 15th January each year. The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 require the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Business Rates Collection Fund estimate on or before 31st January each year.</p>	16 January 2024
<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>	16 January 2024 Council 17 January 2024 21 February 2024
<p>Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26</p> <p>To replace the expiring Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23 and to set out our intended strategies for reaching our climate change targets across the next three years and beyond.</p>	12 March 2024
<p>Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at end of December 2023</p> <p>The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue and capital financial performance against budget as at 31 December 2023.</p>	12 March 2024