

Northumberland County Council

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2023-2024

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17 January 2024

1. Terms of reference:

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Council's Annual Budget and Budgetary Management via the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- (2) To review the state of Northumberland and the County Council's activity in delivering its Corporate Plan.
- (3) To maintain an overview of the Council's performance management arrangements; highlighting areas of poor performance and monitoring recovery delivery plans.
- (4) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the Council and Advance Northumberland.
- (5) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Corporate Services: Organisational Development, Health and Safety, ICT Strategy, Corporate Governance, Financial Services, Procurement Strategy, Risk Strategy, Shared and Traded Services
 - Partnership development coordination with local organisations
 - Relationships with external bodies
 - Regeneration and Economic Development
 - Strategic Transport Network and Infrastructure
 - Employability, Skills, and removing barriers to work
 - Capital Programme and Asset Management
 - Support to VCS organisations and the Council's relationship with town and parish councils.

To be Timetabled:

This will include the OSC being more proactive in early stage development work in formulating new policies and strategies; to investigate matters of interest and concern to the wider community, and to keep under review the performance and financial position of the Council.

- Capital Programme (monitoring slippage)
- Gigafactory Site, Cambois

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26 February 2024

Broadband Rollout

To receive an update on broadband rollout in the county.

Debt Recovery Update

To receive the six monthly update.

BEST: Commissioning and Procurement

The Committee identified this work stream for further examination.

25 March 2024

Advance Northumberland

To receive an update on the operations of Advance Northumberland in the previous year.

**Financial Performance 2023-24 as at
December 2023**

To receive the quarterly update.

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Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	26 June 2023	Presentations from Executive Directors on Forthcoming Issues (Jan Willis/Simon Neilson)	RESOLVED that the information was noted and the issues identified for further examination be included on the Committee's work programme.	The work programme will continue to develop in accordance with the Committee's priorities.
2.	26 June 2023	Financial Performance 2022/23: February 2023 (Provisional Outturn 2022/23)	RESOLVED that (a) the information be noted, and (b) a report be presented to the next meeting setting out the proposals for ensuring the delivery the Parks and Green Spaces Programme.	A report on the issues identified regarding Parks and Green Spaces be prepared for the next meeting.
3.	26 June 2023	Debt Recovery Update	RESOLVED that the report be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive six monthly updates.
4.	25 September 2023	Regeneration Update	RESOLVED that the information in the presentation be noted.	Further updates be presented as requested by the Committee.
5.	25 September 2023	Parks and Green Spaces	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action necessary.
6.	25 September 2023	Financial Performance 2023/24 - Position at End of June 2023	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	The Committee will continue to receive further updates.
7.	25 September 2023	Performance of the Northumberland Lottery	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action necessary.
8.	25 September 2023	HR Annual Update	RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted; (b) the Committee agreed to continue to receive the Workforce Update annually; (c) the data that was contained in the whistleblowing report and the ongoing work to promote a safe environment for staff to raise concerns through various mechanisms across the Council be noted;	A further update on outstanding issues be presented to the OSC in January 2024.

			<p>(d) the continued use of Safecall across the Council as an additional mechanism for staff to raise concerns be supported, and</p> <p>(e) the additional information requested by members as set out above, be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	
9.	27 November 2023	Budget 2024-25 MTFP 2024-28	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(a) the information in the report be noted, and</p> <p>(b) the Cabinet be advised of the Committee's comments when it determines the report on 12 December 2023.</p>	Cabinet considered the OSC's comments when it dealt with this report on 12 December 2023.
10.	27 November 2023	Budget Consultation 2024-25 Draft Engagement Document	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(a) the information in the report be noted, and</p> <p>(b) the Cabinet be advised of the Committee's comments when it determines the report on 12 December 2023.</p>	Cabinet considered the OSC's comments when it dealt with this report on 12 December 2023.
11.	27 November 2023	BEST Update	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>(a) the information be noted, and</p> <p>(b) a forward plan of deep dives into specific workstream to be brought to overview and scrutiny</p>	A report on Commissioning and Procurement will be presented to the OSC on 26 February 2024.