

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2023-2024

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1. Terms of reference:

- (1) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the County Council and Active Northumberland, Woodhorn Museum Charitable Trust and Northumberland Tourism.
- (2) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
 - Development Planning
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Conservation
 - Housing
 - Climate Change
 - Countryside, Biodiversity and Landscape Quality
 - Waste Management and Energy Use
 - Public and Community Transport Network and Travel to School
 - Highway Maintenance, Streetscape and the Local Environment
 - Local and Neighbourhood services
 - Crime, Community Safety, and Fear of Crime, including CONTEST, Prevent and Channel
 - Antisocial Behaviour and Domestic Violence
 - Fire and Rescue
 - Emergency Services and Emergency Planning
 - Customer Services
 - Provision of Cultural and Leisure Facilities
 - Improving Quality of Life through Access to Culture and Leisure;
 - Supporting Economic Growth in the Arts, Culture and Leisure Sectors

2. Issues to be Timetabled/Considered

This will include work that the OSC can be 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. Issues identified by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme are:

- North East Transport Plan
- Local Cycling Walking Investment Plans – development of the programme

- Northumberland Road Safety Strategy – use of members scheme funds and costings.
- Northumberland Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- New Section 106 system
- Green / Open spaces review
- Local Nature Reserve Strategy

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28 February 2024

Social Housing

To consider the implications of the new Social Housing Regulations.

**Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
Inspection Report**

To consider His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection report.

27 March 2024

**Northumberland Infrastructure Funding
Statement**

To consider the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement in respect of Section 106 Agreements.

Library Service Strategy 2021-26

To update the Committee on the implementation of the Strategy.

24 April 2024

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Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	31 May 2023	Fire and Rescue – Contamination	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to agree that financial support for the recommendations made by the fire and rescue service be provided to ensure that Northumberland was leading to reduce the risk of contamination and supporting fire and rescue personnel.	Recommendation was agreed by Cabinet on 11 July 2023.
2.	31 May 2023	Food Waste Recycling Pilot	RESOLVED that the presentation be received and food waste trial results to date be noted.	The OSC to receive further updates as appropriate.
3.	27 July 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Improving Our Roads and Highways	RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix My Street (with links to Network Management Plan / road hierarchy) • North East Transport Plan • Local Cycling Walking Investment Plans – development of the programme • Northumberland Road Safety Strategy – use of members scheme funds and costings. • Northumberland Rights of Way Improvement Plan 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.
4.	27 July 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Environment	RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Regulation Bill 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Section 106 system • Green / Open spaces review • Local Nature Reserve Strategy • A task and finish group on the environment 	
5.	27 July 2023	Update on the Development of a Tree Management Policy	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The progress made on developing the Tree Management Policy be noted. 2. The draft structure of the Tree Management Policy was supported with comments made as above. 	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.
6.	27 September 2023	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Promoting Healthy Lives	<p>RESOLVED that the items listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review by Active Northumberland • Presentation by future leisure services provider • DDP and DMP • Joint review with CSEG ESC on broadband. 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.
7.	27 September 2023	<p>Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Looking After Our Communities</p> <p>Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Annual Performance Report</p>	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the NFRS Annual Performance Report be noted and its review be included in the work programme on an annual basis including information on the scrutiny of core measures and the E&SV toolkit. 2. The item listed below be included within the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny work programme, following discussion between the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and officers, to determine their inclusion at the most appropriate time to enable an effective contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger Local Resilience Forum pilot and COMAH exercise. 	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.
8.	27 September 2023	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) Public Interest Report	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the report be agreed, and (b) a report on planning performance including numbers of applications, resourcing, enforcement 	A report on Planning performance be added to the OSC's work programme.

			including the legal process and costs of decisions against Council decisions.	
9.	25 October 2023	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Northumberland 2022 – 2026 Action Plan Progression	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the updates regarding actions that have been taken to meet the priorities identified to supports our residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	The Committee may seek further updates on the implementation of the action plan as appropriate.
10.	25 October 2023	Update on Implementation of Fix My Street	RESOLVED that the progress made on the development and implementation of the Fix My Street system be noted.	No further action required.
11.	29 November 2023	Planning Service Performance Report	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the report be noted. 2. Members of the committee noted the potential for increase in planning income and recommended to Cabinet to consider investment in the enforcement team and the addition of a rolling fighting fund to support this work. 3. Cabinet to also consider additional support for the Planning Department to deal with the increase in the number of planning applications and enquiries received. 	Cabinet consider the OSC’s recommendations on 16 January 2024 and resolved that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>the recommendation from Scrutiny to consider investment in the enforcement team and the addition of a rolling fighting fund to support this work be accepted;</i> (b) <i>the recommendation from Scrutiny to also consider additional support for the Planning Department to deal with the increase in the number of planning applications and enquiries received be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process; and</i> (c) <i>a Policy Conference around the planning process and enforcement be set up.</i>