

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council** held on **Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at 4:00 pm** in **Welbeck Suite, Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre, Woodhorn Lane, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, NE64 6HG.**

PRESENT

Councillor L Grimshaw (Chair)

MEMBERS

C Ball
D Carr
E Cartie
B Gallacher
C Humphrey
J Lang
K Nisbet

K Parry
M Purvis
J Reid
M Richardson
L Simpson
A Wallace

OFFICERS

R Greally
N Snowdon

R McCartney

Assistant Democratic Service Officer
Principal Programme Officer (Highways
Improvement)
Infrastructure Manager

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSCENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors W Ploszaj and A Watson.

28 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME AND HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE INVESTMENT IN U AND C ROADS AND FOOTWAYS PROGRAMME 2024-25

Robin McCartney, Infrastructure Manager, and Neil Snowdon, Principal Programme Officer, were in attendance to answer questions from members. The report set out the details of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Highway Maintenance Investment in U and C Roads and Footways programmes for 2024-25 for consideration and comment by the Local Area Committee, prior to final approval of

the programme by the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Improving our Roads and Highways.

The following comments were made in response to members questions:-

- Members asked that the format of the report be changed to group the lists into areas to make it simpler to see what was being spent in their ward.
- It was acknowledged that the plan goes through a process and was put together on a needs basis. However, members raised concerns over the distribution of the funding throughout the County and felt that the process needed reviewed. Members felt there was not sufficient money being put into the South East area despite it having the largest population of the County.
- There was a suggestion from members that the current process to repair potholes was not up to standard and questioned whether the micro surfacing was fit for purpose. Officers assured members that repairs were made to an appropriate standard. It was important that potholes were repaired within the statutory timeframe and the process currently used allowed that. The Authority was above the national average for repairing roads. The cost of squaring potholes was significantly more than the current process.
- It was confirmed that the Authority were following guidance given and spending the pothole fund from Government appropriately.
- Members were assured that the Authority did intervene with speeding but only when it was over an 85% percentile in the area. The Authority did discuss speeding hotspots with the Police and looked at enforcement and accident rates.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

29 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee would be held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Chair _____

Date _____