

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

Sean Nicholson: 01670 622605 – Sean.Nicholson@northumberland.gov.uk

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 Infrastructure 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 (waiting for regulations to be laid by Parliament)
- Green / Open spaces review
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Highways Maintenance Programme
- Introduction to Places for People Leisure

Northumberland County Council
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monitoring Report 2023-2024

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 Infrastructure 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:	The issues identified by the Committee will be integrated into the work programme.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Regulation Bill • New Section 106 system • Green / Open spaces review • Local Nature Recovery 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	RESOLVED that (a) the report be agreed, and (b) a report on planning performance including numbers of applications, resourcing, enforcement including the legal process and costs of decisions against Council decisions.	A report on Planning performance be added to the OSC's work programme.
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: 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: (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>
12.	31 January 2024	Active Northumberland Annual Outcome Report 2022-23 including the Service Plan Successes 2022-23	RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted.	The new service provider be invited to a future meeting.
13.	31 January 2024	Update on delivery of Visit Northumberland and the Northumberland	RESOLVED that: 1. The achievements of Visit Northumberland's efforts to maximise the visitor economy's	The OSC will continue to receive annual updates. An Infrastructure Audit be presented to the OSC in due course.

		Destinations Management Plan 2022-2032	<p>contribution to the Northumberland economy, be noted.</p> <p>2. The progress made in the delivery of actions against the priorities of the Northumberland Destination Management Plan, be noted.</p> <p>3. The Infrastructure Audit be added to the committee work programme, when completed.</p>	
14.	31 January 2024	Corporate Feedback Performance 2022/2023	RESOLVED that the report be received.	The OSC will continue to receive annual updates.
15.	28 February 2024	Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Inspection Report	RESOLVED that the outcome of the Inspection Report be noted.	The OSC will receive six monthly monitoring reports on the FRS's Improvement Plan.
16.	28 February 2024	Storm Response	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. The Committee receive the report and agree the closure of 26 actions from the OSC Storm Arwen report.</p> <p>2. The Committee continue to support the concept of community resilience within Northumberland.</p> <p>3. The Members of Parliament in Northumberland be contacted to request that they make representation to the Government to obtain clarity on the PTSN digital switchover to ensure a minimum solution and standards.</p> <p>4. The Council be recommended to purchase Starlink equipment to enable demonstration to local communities and the value of the equipment for a community led emergency response.</p>	The Committee will continue to receive updates on community resilience.