

Northumberland County Council

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2021-2022

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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.

Reports to be scheduled:

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11 October 2021

Approval of the Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23

The scheme needs to be approved annually and assistance is by way or a reduction in the amount of council tax that is due.

Energising Blyth Programme (Energy Central Campus)

This report seeks to update Cabinet and seek key decisions regarding arrangements to support the development and establishment of the Energy Central Campus. This project is one of the priority schemes in the Energising Blyth Regeneration Programme including projects supported by the Future High Streets Fund and Blyth Town Deal.

Culture and Creative Zone Pilot for Northumberland

Cabinet will be asked to consider and agree the preferred location for the creation of a Culture and Creative Zone pilot for Northumberland with the support of funding from the North of Tyne Combined Authority

Newcastle Airport – Shareholder Loan Guarantee

Cabinet will consider the provision of a loan facility to Newcastle International Airport (NIAL) to support the waiving of loan covenants with its major lenders.

The Committee's view will be sought prior to consideration by Cabinet on all of the above reports prior to their determination.

8 November 2021

Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan 22/26

This report provides an update on the development of the 2022-23 Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2022 to 2026. This report also details budget proposals for 2022-23 to meet the budget gap, as a basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-23 in December 2021. The Committee's view will be sought prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Broadband

Following the recent announcement of £12m investment from the North of Tyne to boost the digital sector within its area, an overview report will set out the implications and anticipated

	benefits for Northumberland. Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader is the North of Tyne Cabinet Member for Clean Energy and Connectivity.
6 December 2022	
Debt Recovery Update	To provide the Committee with information regarding the level of outstanding debt owed to the Council and to give assurance as to the efficiency and effectiveness of its collection and recovery policies and systems.
10 January 2022	
7 February 2022	
Budget 2022/23	To invite members of all four OSCs to comment on the budget proposals for 2022/23.
7 March 2022	
11 April 2022	

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Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1.	12 July 2021	Borderlands	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee support the recommendations as outlined in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 13 July 2021.
2.	12 July 2021	Workforce Report	RESOLVED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of this report. ii. Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee continue to receive an annual update of this report for every financial year. iii. 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 was noted; and iv. The Members Working Group review the Whistleblowing policy in regards to Elected Members and a report be brought back to this Committee. 	<p>The Committee will continue to receive this report annually.</p> <p>The Members Services Working Group will review the Whistleblowing Policy insofar as it affects elected members. The outcome should then be reported back to this Committee.</p>
3.	12 July 2021	Statutory Consultation on the new timetable for the East Coast mainline between Edinburgh and London	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee supported Councillor Sanderson efforts in relation to the proposals; and 2. A representative of the body proposing the cuts be invited to attend this Committee to explain the reasoning behind the proposals. 	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.
4.	2 August 2021	Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Limited	The Committee therefore RESOLVED to advise the Cabinet of the issues raised	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 17 August 2021.

			above and to consider the additional recommendations as agreed.	
5.	9 August 2021	Advanced Propulsion Centre UK	RESOLVED that the presentation and members' comments be noted.	No further action required at this stage.
6.	9 August 2021	Dissolution of the Council's Partnership with Northumbria Healthcare/ Proposed Partnership for 0-19 Public Health Services - Consultation	RESOLVED that (a) the information provided by the representatives of the Trust and the responses provided by the Chief Executive be noted, and (b) the Cabinet be recommended to direct officers of the Council to meet officers of the Trust to determine whether a practical solution can be achieved to salvage what is an excellent relationship.	This issue was subject to call-in to the Health and Wellbeing OSC on 18 August 2021. That Committee will continue to oversee the transition.
7.	9 August 2021	Advance Northumberland	RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted, and (b) further updates be presented to the Committee.	Further updates will be presented to the Committee as appropriate.
8.	6 September 2021	Northumberland Line	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee support the recommendations as outlined in the report and specifically to the proposal of the two years' free parking.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 7 September 2021.