

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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17 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.

**Green Homes Grant, Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2) - Grant Funding**

To seek authorisation for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Round 2 of £2.2m grant funding – for both receipt and spend of capital funding, and subsequent inclusion in the Council’s Capital Programme.

**Northumberland Lottery**

This report provides the annual update on the performance of the Northumberland Lottery which was launched on 25 April 2020 following approval by Cabinet on 6 August 2019. The lottery is open to members of the public and supports local community groups.

**Corporate Plan Refresh 2021-24**

The report presents the Council’s Corporate Plan for 2021-2024. The Plan for 2021-24 builds on the progress from the previous Corporate Plan and presents a refreshed vision, aims and priorities. This refresh takes account of the changing social and economic context as a result of the Covid Pandemic and the Council’s priorities for leading recovery across the County in the coming months and years. The priorities in the Corporate Plan will be delivered through the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan, Service Planning and Performance Frameworks.

The Committee’s views will be sought on all of the above reports prior to their determination by Cabinet on 18 November.

6 December 2022

**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

<b>Debt Recovery Update</b>	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	
<b>British Volt</b>	To update the Committee on progress of the project at East Sleekburn.
7 February 2022	
<b>Budget 2022/23</b>	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	<b>Borderlands</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Workforce Report</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of this report.</li> <li>ii. Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee continue to receive an annual update of this report for every financial year.</li> <li>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</li> <li>iv. The Members Working Group review the Whistleblowing policy in regards to Elected Members and a report be brought back to this Committee.</li> </ul>	<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	<b>Statutory Consultation on the new timetable for the East Coast mainline between Edinburgh and London</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Committee supported Councillor Sanderson efforts in relation to the proposals; and</li> <li>2. A representative of the body proposing the cuts be invited to attend this Committee to explain the reasoning behind the proposals.</li> </ul>	The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as appropriate.
4.	2 August 2021	<b>Northumberland Enterprise Holdings Limited</b>	The Committee therefore <b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Advanced Propulsion Centre UK</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the presentation and members' comments be noted.	No further action required at this stage.
6.	9 August 2021	<b>Dissolution of the Council's Partnership with Northumbria Healthcare/ Proposed Partnership for 0-19 Public Health Services - Consultation</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Advance Northumberland</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<b>Northumberland Line</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> 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.
9.	11 October 2021	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> to advise Cabinet they would like to see a commitment to utilise the household support fund to offer relief above 92%.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
10.	11 October 2021	<b>Establishing a Pilot Culture and Creative Zone in Northumberland</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
11.	11 October 2021	<b>Energising Blyth Programme</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report.	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021.
12.	11 October 2021	<b>Newcastle Airport – Shareholder Loan Guarantee</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b> the Committee supported the recommendation contained in the report	The Cabinet considered the comments of the OSC when it determined the report on 12 October 2021