

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Enquiries to: Jackie Roll
Direct Line: 622603 (01670)
E-mail: jackie.roll@northumberland.gov.uk

Date: 14 February 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth, on **WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017** at **3.00 pm** to transact the business mentioned in the accompanying agenda paper.

Yours faithfully,

Steven P Mason

Chief Executive

To the members of the County Council

Steven Mason – Chief Executive

County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

(T) 0345 600 6400 (F) 01670 626030 (W) www.northumberland.gov.uk



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2017

AGENDA PAPER

Business to be transacted at a meeting of the County Council, to be held on the 22nd day of February 2017

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on Wednesday 6th December 2016, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, signed by the Business Chair and sealed with the Common Seal of the Council (**see pages 11-36**).

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room

NB Any member needing clarification must contact Liam Henry, Legal Services Manager, on 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS by the Business Chair, Leader and Head of the Paid Service.

5. CORRESPONDENCE (if any) to date of meeting.

6. QUESTIONS to be put to the Business Chair, a member of the Cabinet or the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee, in accordance with the Constitution's Rules of Procedure No.10.

7. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON:

- (i) Tuesday, 7 December 2016 (see pages 37-44)**
- (ii) Tuesday 10 January 2017 (see pages 45-52)**
- (iii) Thursday 19 January 2017 (see pages 53-62)**
- (iv) Tuesday 7 February 2017 (see pages 63-74)**

AND TO APPROVE the following resolutions as they involve budget or policy framework matters requiring Council approval:-

(i) Minute No. 59 of the 10 January 2017 meeting relating to the report of the Family and Children’s Services OSC on funding for the Safeguarding Board.

(ii) Minute No. 73 of the 7 February meeting 2017 relating to the membership and terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Advisory Group.

8. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MINUTES from the following Committees:-

- (a) Economic Growth and Strategic Transport OSC (see pages 75-84)**
- (b) Family and Children’s Services OSC (see pages 85-114)**
- (c) Communities and Local Services OSC (see pages 115-126)**
- (d) Care and Wellbeing OSC (see pages 127-134)**
- (e) Corporate Performance OSC (see pages 135-140)**
- (f) Arts Leisure and Culture OSC (see pages 141-148)**
- (g) Corporate Resources & Regional Affairs OSC (see pages 149-152)**
- (h) Health and Wellbeing Board OSC (see pages 153-170)**
- (i) Audit Committee (see pages 171-182)**
- (j) Standards Committee (see pages 183-188)**

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion No.1

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor B. Pidcock to move the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 6 January 2017:-

This Council notes that:

- *corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid*
- *this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year*
- *this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.*

This Council further notes that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14). This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

This Council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification.

This Council notes the 2015 Public Contract Regulations which state (in section 4) that local government can choose to adopt Procurement Policy Note 03/14.

This Council believes that bidders for Council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the higher standards in PPN 03/14. This Council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £50,000.00 and for works contracts worth more than £50,000.00 to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14, applying to contracts of the size specified above.

This Council asks the Cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually.

Motion No.2

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor B. Pidcock to move the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 12 February 2017:-

This Council urges the Government's Fair Funding Review:

- 1. To have, as its guiding principle fairness, This should be at the heart of business rates retention. It will enable local authorities to fund local services, stimulate reform and make a significant contribution to helping people and places realise their full contribution.*
- 2. To have a coherent strategy to combat poverty as a key driver of spend.*
- 3. To include tax resources equalisation to ensure fairness of resources capacity at the outset, which will include a mechanism to relocating disproportionate tax windfalls and addressing tax shortfalls.*

Motion No.3

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor D. Bawn to move the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 13 February 2017:-

This Council recognises the importance of a balanced and healthy diet to safeguard the health of local residents especially children.

In light of the Council's statutory role in the promotion of good health it should take all appropriate steps to safeguard health and promote a healthy diet.

In promotion of this aim, the location of fast food outlets next to school premises should be discouraged, and this Council resolves to make such changes to the planning priorities of the Council as shall be required to prevent fast food outlets being opened in close proximity to our schools.

10. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(1) Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-20 and Budget 2017-18

The purpose of the report is to request that County Council approve delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer or Deputy Section 151 Officer to adjust the 2017-2018 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 for any changes announced as part of the final settlement following the delay in the announcement until late February 2017 (**see pages 189-192**).

The ringbound Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-20 and Budget 2017-18 is enclosed separately for only those members who have not received it already with their Scrutiny or Cabinet agenda papers. Please bring your copy with you.

Members are reminded that, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014/165) immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision, or against the decision, or who abstained from voting.

(2) Council Tax 2017-18

Each financial year, by virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council is required to set a Council Tax for each Valuation Band in its area.

This report provides information in relation to the Council Tax increases and outlines the position that the Council wishes to take for the 2017-2018 financial year.

This paper requires the County Council to have approved the paper on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 and Budget 2017-2018.

The Police and Crime Panel have recommended a precept of £9,945,853 to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The figures in this report are based on this figure.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and subsequent amendments require the County Council to set its Council Tax before 11 March 2017.

The Localism Act 2011 has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires the County Council as 'billing authority' to calculate its 'Council Tax' requirement for the year.

In setting the Council Tax, the County Council is required to make certain calculations and to approve a number of resolutions in accordance with the Act.

The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 30 November 2012 contains the rules which require the Council to calculate the Council Tax Base. The Council Tax Base must be set between 1 December and 31 January in the preceding year to which it has effect.

At its meeting on 6 December 2016 the Cabinet set the Council Tax Base as 101,147.70 for Band D equivalent properties (Item T in the formula in Section

31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”). This is based on a collection rate of 98.8% (see pages 193-212).

(3) Potential Loan to Northumbria Calvert Trust

The report provides details of a potential loan facility to Northumbria Calvert Trust of up to £300,000 for the purchase of staff accommodation within Kielder Village (see pages 213-218).

(4) Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Requirement for Asset Pooling

The report seeks approval to establish the governance arrangements to enable the Council to participate in the proposed Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Pool (“BCPP Pool”). Such participation will enable the Council, acting in its capacity as the administering authority for Northumberland County Council Pension Fund (NCCPF), to meet its LGPS regulatory obligation to state its approach to pooling investments in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (see pages 219-278).

(5) Treasury Management Mid Year report for the Period 1 April to 30 September 2016

This report presents the Authority’s Treasury Management performance to members in compliance with CIPFA’s Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, (Revised 2011) and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2003, revised 2011. The report advises members of Treasury Management activity and performance against prudential indicators during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 (see pages 279-304).

11. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMY

Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Draft Plan

To seek approval to submit the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Draft Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Independent Examination (see pages 305-314).

This report is enclosed only for those members who have not already received it with their Scrutiny or Cabinet agenda papers. Please bring your copy with you.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):

Meeting:

Date:

Item to which your interest relates:

Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):

Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):

Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

- a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or
- b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-Registerable Personal Interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-Participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.