

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
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Date: 8 November 2017

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING COMMENCES AT 2.00 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, MORPETH, NE61 2EF**, on **THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 2.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully,



Interim Chief Executive

To: Members of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors: Renner-Thompson G (Chair), Swinburn M (Vice-Chair), Campbell D, Cessford T, Lang J, Nisbet K, Richards ME, Stewart G, Stow K, Wallace R

Cabinet Members:

Councillor W Daley - Deputy Leader & Children's Services



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
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AGENDA

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2017, as circulated, to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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.

N.B. Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager, Liam Henry on Tel: 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this Agenda letter.

4. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for November 2017 to February 2018. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the committee. (Forward Plan enclosed as **Appendix A.**)

REPORT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY CABINET

5. REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Proposed Closure of Acklington Church of England First School

Cabinet at their meeting on 7 November 2017 considered a report of the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. An extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet will be circulated as soon as they are available.

The Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the decision of Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley.

REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET

6. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Local Government Ombudsman investigation into a complaint against Northumberland Council

The report (attached as **Appendix B**) is to inform members of Cabinet at their meeting on 12 December 2017 about the outcomes from a Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) investigation into a complaint against Northumberland Council children's social care. The report is before this Committee for pre-scrutiny and Members are asked to provide comments which will be reported to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

7. REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Education Infrastructure Planning Policy Contribution.

The report (**attached as Appendix C**) to be considered by Cabinet at the meeting of 12 December 2017 requests approval for the adoption of a policy in relation to securing housing developer funding contributions for education infrastructure, to ensure the council continues to meet its statutory obligations in relation to pupil place planning. The report is before this Committee for pre-scrutiny and Members are asked to provide comments which will be reported to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY

8. REPORT OF PAULA MEAD NSCB INDEPENDENT CHAIR

The report (attached as **Appendix D**) provides an overview of the work carried out under the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in 2016/17.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

9. REPORTS OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(a) Safeguarding Activity Trends Report

The report (attached as **Appendix E**) provides an analysis of social work activity trends and case allocation as well as highlighting national developments regarding the Department for Education safeguarding indicators.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

(b) Adoption Agency Annual Report

The report (attached as **Appendix F**) is the Adoption Agency Annual Report for 2016/17. In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all adoption agencies have to provide a report regarding the outcomes of the adoption service.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

(c) Fostering Agency Annual Report

The report (attached as **Appendix G**) is the Fostering Service Annual Report for 2016/17. In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all Fostering Services have to provide a report on the outcomes of the service.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

(d) Regionalising Adoption Proposals Update

The report (attached as **Appendix H**) provides an update in relation to the development of the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) and provides an overview of the work with partners under the working title of "Adopt NE". It also advises of the proposed change to the implementation date from the 1st April 2018 to the 1st October 2018. The RAA business entity will be subject to approval by Cabinet of each of the participating local authorities: Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, and South Tyneside.

The Cabinet Member requested to attend for this item is Councillor W Daley

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

10. Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Members are asked to consider the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme. (Work Programme enclosed as **Appendix I**).

INFORMATION REPORT

The following report is for information only and can be accessed through Northumberland County Council's Web site. If a member of the Committee would like further explanation of the report, or has questions they wish to put to the relevant Policy Board Member, he/she should contact Democratic Services Section in order that appropriate arrangements can be made.

11. POLICY DIGEST

This report gives details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members.

NB Reports have not been reproduced/circulated. They can be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's web site at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

12. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

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.