



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

Dear Colleagues,

**County Committee**

There will be a face-to-face meeting of the County Committee on **Saturday 2 July 2022** starting at 10.00 am in the Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre, West Gordon Terrace, Stakeford, Northumberland NE62 5UD

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Rickitt**

**NALC Chief Officer**

21 June 2022

**AGENDA**

**1: Welcome**

**2: Committee Membership and Appointments**

The Committee are invited to co-opt the following

Cllr Paul Dancer – Amble TC – to replace Cllr David Bewley  
Cllr Paul Hitchenes – Dinnington PC – to replace Cllr Steven Phelps

**3: Apologies for Absence**

The Chief Officer will give details of any apologies received. Members of the Committee are reminded that if they are unable to attend, a substitute Councillor is welcome but please let the Chief Officer know.

**4: Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 April 2022**

To agree the draft minutes as a true record

**5: Matters arising, (if not otherwise on the agenda) including**

- The Armed Forces Covenant – material is awaited from the MoD

## 6: Coronavirus

The recent increase in case-rates causes concern but are Members of the County Committee aware of any new issues to be raised with the City or County Council, or Central Government?

## 7: Storm Arwen

The report of the County Council's Review is awaited. Indications are that it is to be presented to the County Council on 6 July 2022. The Ofgem Review heavily criticising Scottish Power and Northern Powergrid and is available at

[Storm Arwen Report | Ofgem](#)

## 8: The Northumberland Local Council Charter

Following discussion at the County Council's Town & Parish Liaison Working Group, the revised Charter is to be distributed to all Northumberland's Parish, Town and Community Councils.

## 9: Newcastle Issues

A meeting with the new Chief Executive of the City Council has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## 10: The Retirement of the Chief Officer

Stephen Rickitt has given three months formal notice of his intention to retire, expiring at the end of August 2022. Arrangements are underway to recruit his successor and an update will be given at the meeting. If the Committee so wish, the leaving date may be slipped to the end of September 2022 to assist in a smooth handover.

## 11: The AGM

The AGM will be on Saturday 8 October 2022 starting at 10.15 am in Felton Village Hall (Venue to be confirmed). The principal speaker will be Rob Murfin, The County Council's Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services, Regeneration, Commercial & Economy

## 12: Finance

Please see the accompanying report.

## 13: National Issues

A verbal update will be provided on key national issues.

## 14: Issues raised by Committee Members

This is the opportunity for Committee Members to raise matters which may be of general interest affecting Local Councils in Newcastle and Northumberland.

14.1 What happens with the parish projects given the County Council's reported money problems, and what steps should our sector be considering – Cllr Paul Vaughan

#### 15: Operation London Bridge

Committee Members are reminded of the digital briefing on Friday 15 July 2022.

#### 16: The Briefing Programme 2022

The following is the current programme and will be updated at the meeting. Events surrounding the now adopted Northumberland Local Plan will be added during September.

All on-line and starting at 7.00 pm – booking are as at 8000 21 July

Ref	Date	Title	Presenter	Bookings	Attendance
1	12 April	Preparing for Audit	SER	17	17
2	7 June	General Introduction to Parish Town & Community Councils	SER	9	9
3	15 June	Finance for Parish Town & Community Councils	SER	12	12
4	11 July	Public Rights of Way	SER	4	
5	26 July	Workshop – Climate Change & Parish Town & Community Councils	N'land CC Officers	17	

In addition, a briefing was delivered to a Member Council on 27 April 2022, with another Council's scheduled for 23 June.

Given the Chief Officer's impending retirement, it would seem prudent to avoid arranging briefings during the autumn at the present time with the exception of two being arranged in September for Rob Murfin to present more information on the Northumberland Local Plan.

#### 17: Any Other Urgent Business

Please let the Chairman and Chief Officer know of any items that you wish to raise.

#### 18: Future Meetings of the Committee

To be confirmed depending on venue availability