



North Tyneside Council

Green Sub Committee

Friday, 25 August 2023

Tuesday, 5 September 2023 0.02 Chamber – Quadrant, The Silverlink North,
Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm.**

Agenda Item	Page
1. Apologies for Absence	
To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.	
2. Appointment of Substitute Members	
To receive notifications of the appointment of any Substitute Members.	
3. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations	
You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.	
You are also invited to disclose any dispensations that have been granted to you in relation any matters appearing on the agenda.	

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Agenda Item	Page
4. Minutes	1 - 4
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Green Sub-committee held on 11 July 2023.	
5. Green Sub Committee – Work Programme	
To consider priorities for inclusion in the work programme for 2023-24.	
6. Update on the Tree Management Policy Review	5 - 6
To give consideration to a report which provides an update on the Authority's approach to reviewing the existing Tree Management Policy.	
7. Active Travel in North Tyneside	
To give consideration to a report on the promotion of and public engagement with Active Travel in North Tyneside (to follow).	

Circulation overleaf ...

Members of the Green Sub Committee

Councillor Sarah Burtenshaw

Councillor Michelle Fox

Councillor Louise Marshall

Councillor Jim Montague

Councillor Jane Shaw

Councillor Judith Wallace

Councillor Davey Drummond

Councillor Margaret Hall (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Martin Murphy (Chair)

Councillor Joan Walker

Councillor Matt Wilson

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Green Sub Committee

Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Present: Councillor M Murphy (Chair)
Councillors D Drummond, L Marshall, I McAlpine,
J Montague, J Shaw, A Spowart and J Walker

Apologies: Councillors S Burtenshaw, M Fox, M Hall and
M Wilson

G1/23 Appointment of Substitute Members

In accordance with the Council's Constitution the following Substitute Member was reported:

Councillor A Spowart for Councillor M Hall.

G2/23 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest reported.

G3/23 Work Programme 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report which set out a suggested approach for the Sub-committee to develop its work programme for the 2023-24 Municipal Year following the recent review of the Authority's scrutiny arrangements.

The report also detailed the remit of the Sub-committee which had been agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2023 (Minute C12/23 refers) and detailed the officer and member support available to the Sub-committee to help develop and deliver its work programme.

To assist the Sub-committee in identifying the topics to include in its work programme a presentation was given which set out the key priorities and the key challenges of the Environment Directorate and the Business and Economic Development Directorate in relation to the areas under the remit of the Sub-committee.

In relation to the challenges faced by the Environment Directorate reference was made to:

- The operational delivery of food waste collections and the need for further Government guidance;
- Issues surrounding the electrification of the larger fleet vehicles;
- Additional demand for services due to a growing borough;
- The impact of adverse weather conditions;
- The changes in relation to waste and the consistency of collections and the need for further guidance from the Government;
- The renewal of the Waste Contracts;
- Biodiversity and net gain;
- Inflation and changes to energy prices;
- Carbon Net Zero 2030; and
- The expiry of the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

In relation to Transport and Highways reference was made to:

- The delivery of strategic local plan sites;
- Supporting regeneration objectives;
- The move to the Mayoral Combined Authority and the refresh of the North East Transport Plan;
- The funding challenges associated with the maintenance of the highway assets;
- Active Travel;
- Partnership working in relation to public transport and the regional bus partnership;
- Infrastructure in relation to Electric Vehicles; and
- The expiry of the Technical Partnership.

During the meeting members made reference to a number of potential topics for consideration in the Sub-committee's work programme. These included:

- New ways of dealing with graffiti;
- Improvements to the weedkilling service;
- The use of technology to speed up the delivery of services to residents; and
- Influencing large corporations to reduce the waste that they produce and/or to provide local recycling facilities.

The Chair suggested that as there were several members of the Sub-committee not present at the meeting and that he wanted everyone to have the opportunity of contributing to the Sub-committee's work programme he would contact those members to invite suggested topics before the Sub-committee's work programme was developed prior to the next meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- (1) The information provided in relation to scrutiny work planning and the good practice guidance provided by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny be noted;
- (2) The Link Cabinet Members and lead Senior Leadership Team officers' active support of the work and information needs of the Sub-committee in the coming year, including the provision of information to support the Sub-committee's work planning at regular intervals during the year be noted;
- (3) The Cabinet Member and Senior Officer's suggestions in relation to current and up-coming policy matters which could be included in the Sub-committee's work programme be noted;
- (4) Work programming be included as a standard agenda item at future meetings of the Sub-committee to allow the work programme to flex as necessary to respond to matters emerging during the year;
- (5) The Chair be authorised to consult with members to develop the topics for inclusion in the Sub-committee's work programme prior to the next meeting and to agree the two topics which would form the Sub-committee's work programme for 2023-24.

Meeting: Green Sub Committee

Date: 05 September 2023

Title: Update on Tree Management Policy Review

Author: Kim Pye Tel: 0191 643 3442

Service: Environmental Services &
Safer Neighbourhoods

Directorate: Environment

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To provide members of the Green Sub Committee with information on the Authority's approach to reviewing the existing Tree Management Policy.

2. Background

On 20 July 2023, Council agreed to undertake a review of the Authority's current tree management policy and refer the policy to the cross-party Green Sub-Committee for consideration before it goes to Cabinet.

3. Information

3.1 Legislation

We have a statutory duty to ensure we manage our tree stock in line with legislation and guidance. Details of such legislation are listed in North Tyneside Council's existing Tree Management Policy.

As an employer, we must follow advice from competent and suitability trained individuals to ensure our decision-making process is sufficient and robust in protecting the safety of others.

In addition, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 stipulates we must do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that people are not exposed to risk to their health and safety.

3.2 Tree Management Policy

The Tree Management Policy was first introduced in 2009. The Policy was reviewed in February 2010 and again in January 2016. The most recent review was undertaken in 2022 to take into consideration Climate Change (Section 4.7), where it was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 24 January 2022.

The Policy provides a strategic framework for the proactive management of the local tree population. The policy details, how we actively maintain our tree stock and our operational approach to what actions are deemed suitable and appropriate in line with legislation, guidance and best practice.

3.3 Current Context

In line with continuous improvement, the Authority is currently in the process of undertaking a full review of our approach to tree management. As part of this review, an independent tree management specialist has been commissioned to carry out a review of the Authority's approach to the management of trees.

The review will be carried out over the coming months and will provide professional and competent advice in relation to our current systems and operations, and make recommendations, where appropriate, for changes to be made to enhance our current approach.

Importantly, the review may necessitate the need for any recommended changes to be reflected in our existing tree management policy. It is therefore important to complete this operational review prior to reviewing the tree management policy.

4. **Recommendations**

The operational review is anticipated to take approximately 7 months. Following this, a review of the existing tree management policy will be undertaken and presented to committee members for scrutiny next year.