



North Tyneside Council

Environment Sub Committee

Monday 28 June 2021

Tuesday, 6 July 2021 Chamber, Ground Floor, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm.**

Due to Covid precautions anyone wishing to attend the meeting should first notify the contact officer.

Agenda Item	Page
1. Apologies for Absence To receive any apologies for absence	
2. Minutes To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021	3 - 4
3. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations To receive any declarations of interests or dispensations	
4. 10 Year Plan for Waste To give consideration to a presentation on the 10 year plan for waste.	
5. Environment Sub Committee Work Programme 2021/22 To give consideration to the Sub-committee's work programme for the 2021/22 Municipal Year	5 - 8

Circulation overleaf ...

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Members of the Environment Sub Committee

Councillor Brian Burdis (Chair)
Councillor Linda Bell (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Margaret Hall
Councillor Chris Johnston
Councillor Gary Madden
Councillor Janice Mole

Councillor Gary Bell
Councillor Muriel Green
Councillor John Harrison
Councillor Joe Kirwin
Councillor Pam McIntyre
Councillor Jane Shaw

Environment Sub Committee

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)
Councillors A Austin, L Bartoli, L Bell, J Cruddas, J Mole
and E Parker-Leonard

Apologies: Councillors A Percy

E1/21 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no Substitute Members reported.

E2/21 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

E3/21 Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2019/20

Consideration was given to a presentation and report which provided an update on the delivery of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) during 2019/20.

During 2019/20 a number of schemes had been undertaken to deliver the BAP including:

- the restoration, management and creation of 1.4 hectares of wildflower grassland at over 70 different sites across the Borough;
- the creation of brownfield butterfly habitat in the West Chirton Industrial Estate;
- the creation of a number of species rich grasslands as part of the planning process;
- woodland, hedgerow and shrub planting which had been secured as part of the planning process;
- tree and shrub management had been carried out over the winter at various parts of the Borough including the Fish Quay, St Mary's Nature Reserve, Holywell Dene and Brierdene;
- community groups had undertaken a significant amount of native bulb planting at several locations across the Borough including the Rising Sun Country Park;
- the Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDs) had been completed at Killingworth Lakeside Park, which included the provision of floating islands and marginal aquatic planting along with pond improvements;
- a new bog garden had been created in Northumberland Park and 5 new ponds had been created along the Silverlink Waggonway as part of footpath and drainage works carried out by the Authority;
- pond and watercourse improvements had been carried out at the Rising Sub Country Park and native scrub and wildflowers were intended to be planted at the site in Spring 2021

- bat habitat, boxes and hibernation roosts had been secured in a number of developments as part of the planning process;
- bird surveys had been carried out at various locations including Souter Park/Churchill Playing Fields, St Mary's Nature Reserve, Northumberland Park and Brierdene.

It was explained that there were a number of community groups who were very active in the area, maintaining and improving biodiversity in specific areas of the Borough. An update was provided on the works undertaken by the each of the groups so that Members could see the extent of the community involvement in maintaining and improving biodiversity in North Tyneside. The Chair asked the officer to pass on the Sub-committee's thanks for the works undertaken to improve biodiversity in the Borough.

Members noted that there were a number of community groups in operation but queried what happened in those areas which did not have an active community group. It was explained that the Authority undertook some of the works required but would welcome and encourage more community involvement. It was also explained that there might be community groups operating who did not come to the attention of the Authority and who were happy to continue in that vein.

Clarification was sought on how the site had been created at West Chirton. It was explained that the turf and soil had been transferred from the current site to the new site as the eggs of the dingy skipper butterfly were laid at the base of plants and that was the only way to ensure that the new site would be colonised by butterflies.

Reference was made to the installation of netting to deter kittiwakes from roosting/nesting on buildings. It was explained that the Authority did not have the power to prevent this or to require the removal of the netting.

Clarification was sought in relation to the subject of tree planting in the Borough. It was explained that where appropriate the Authority asked for woodland planting as part of granting planning permissions. The Authority was also working with other authorities across the region to bid for funding as part of the Trees for Climate Programme. It was also explained that plans were in place to replace some of the non-native species in the Rising Sub Country Park with suitable native species.

Reference was made to the increased use of the Borough's parks and open spaces due to the Covid-19 restrictions and an increased appreciation of green spaces in the vicinity of peoples' homes.

The Chair thanked the officer for her presentation/report.

It was **agreed** that the presentation and report be noted.

Meeting: Environment Sub-committee

Date: 6 July 2021

Title: Work Programme 2021/22

Author: Dave Parkin, Democratic Services Tel: 643 5316

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Sub-committee with a number of potential topics for inclusion in the 2021/22 work programme and to invite members to identify any additional topics which they consider should be included in the Sub-committee's work programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to agree a work programme and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee that could be included in the 2021/22 work programme.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Sub-committee is invited to give consideration to determining its work programme for the year ahead. In doing so members may wish to take into account the following factors.
- 3.2 The Sub-committee is one of a number of overview and scrutiny sub-committees. The role of overview and scrutiny is described in the Council's Constitution as follows: "Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development involves councillors of all political parties, as leaders of their communities, examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers to ensure that they meet the needs, and improve the lives, of people in North Tyneside.

It does this by:

- a) reviewing and challenging the impact of decisions and actions taken by the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations;
- b) carrying out investigations into services and policy areas of interest and concern to communities in North Tyneside;
- c) involving communities in its work and reflecting their views and concerns; and
- d) supporting and assisting the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence based recommendations to them on how services can be improved."

- 3.3 The Environment Sub-committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:

- Environment

- Energy use
- Climate Change
- Flood Risk Management
- Waste Management

3.4 To ensure that the work programme is effective it is suggested that when evaluating topics for inclusion in the work programme the following criteria should be considered:

- Is it timely?
- Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the North of Tyne Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
- Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

3.5 The Sub-committee has the option of establishing sub-groups (of around 4/5 members) to carry out in-depth investigations. The sub-groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub-group can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

3.6 The following topics have been suggested by members of the authority for consideration by the Sub-committee:

- An examination of the practical steps that each Directorate of the authority has taken to address the authority's climate change ambitions such as, for example, the reduction of paper and plastic usage, changes to the way that it delivers its services and how successful those changes have been;
- An examination of the environmental impact of changes to the planning process including on biodiversity
- An examination of the Carbon Reduction Strategy: What has already been achieved and what innovative strategies have been tried/considered?;
- An examination of the benefits to the community of the greenspaces provided and maintained by the authority and how they are perceived by the community.

3.7 A proposed draft outline work programme for 2021/22 is attached. Members of the Sub-committee are invited to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Outline Environment Sub-Committee work programme 2021/22.

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report:

- Environment Sub-Committee minutes and work programme
- North Tyneside Scrutiny Handbook
- North Tyneside Constitution

Environment Sub Committee – Work programme 2021/22

Meeting	Topic	Report Author	Notes/Outcome
6 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme • 10 Year Plan for Waste 	Dave Parkin Colin McDonald	
7 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Strategy 	Cllr Matthew Thirlaway/Sam Dand	
9 November 2021			
11 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Action Plan (TBC) 	Jackie Hunter	
8 March 2022			

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