

COUNCIL 12 MARCH 2014**1. Public Realm Service Enhancements – local scheme partnership**

- 1.1 Members discussed at the last meeting the Northumberland County Council approach to Town Councils concerning the direction of the new administration in light of its financial position and local service provision as it did not intend to reduce front line services further or to transfer any more local services to Town and Parish Councils.
- 1.2 While County services will be delivered to the same standard as the current year it recognises that to seek service improvements in local communities it had to build on the pilot arrangements to enhance public realm services with partnership arrangements with Town Councils.
- 1.3 Locally branded town services are likely to be introduced across South East Northumberland in particular with employees working in dedicated areas and this principle can apply to any of the local street scene services which the local community and Town Council believe ought to be enhanced.
- 1.4 This partnership alternative delivery model could provide a jointly funded team with its own identity dedicated to Newbiggin to deliver enhanced environmental services in an efficient and cost effective way and is based on the cost of employees and any necessary vehicles. The Town Council would have direct input into the activities of such a team which could be flexible to adapt to local areas of concern.
- 1.5 Members have received further information and presentation regarding this approach and will have to consider in the context of the Town Council Budget whether the additional cost is affordable following the identification of the services for Newbiggin that need to be enhanced.

The Town Council is RECOMMENDED to consider whether it wishes to introduce enhanced local service provisions in the town with the County Council.

2 NCC Consultation Parking Orders

- 2.1 Consultation is underway regarding the changes in parking charges and orders throughout the county until the end of March and most charges are being removed apart from some visitor car parks at Corbridge; Craster; Holy Island; Newton by the Sea; Sea Houses.
- 2.2 There are no charging effects for Newbiggin by-the-Sea but the legal process will involve revoking existing orders and creating a new one with 'no-return' time limits although it would appear that they will not be less than existing time limits. It is proposed that time limits will be enforced through the introduction of disk parking zones and 'no return' will assist enforcement.
- 2.3 Members are invited to make any representations to the proposed changes.

3 NCC Consultation Post 16 Transport in Northumberland

- 3.1 This consultation relates to proposals to make significant changes to some discretionary home to school transport policies including Post-16 transport as part of efficiency savings to include scrutiny of three forms of voluntary subsidy to students.
- 3.2 The consultation document www.northumberland.gov.uk/post16 has been circulated to Members and proposes changes to policies affecting free transport for sixth form and college students; students over 8 in First and Primary Schools living between 2 and 3 miles from school; provided on denominational grounds.
- 3.3 The options for consideration are withdrawal of subsidies; re-introduction of a standard charge; limiting transport costs that it will pay for. The number of students currently receiving these elements of free travel has increased to over 3,500 at an average cost of £936 per student, more than double those other rural areas that still contribute, ranging up to £4,000 per year for rural travellers to Tyneside Colleges.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider any responses to this consultation.

4 NCC Consultation Town and Parish Charter

- 4.1 A revised and simplified version of the Charter has been circulated for Members consideration and comment.
- 4.2 A number of questions have been raised by the County Council as part of this consultation covering shared principles; effective communication; engagement for making decisions; financial arrangements guided by fairness efficiency and transparency; local services and assets.
- 4.3 The Town Council is invited to consider responses to the questions raised concerning the principles for the revised Charter.

DRAFT DIARY OF MEETINGS – 2014/2015

DATE	MEETING	VENUE	TIME
2014			
31 MARCH	Finance Committee		7.00 pm
14 MAY	TOWN COUNCIL	Grace Darling Campus	7.00 pm
11 JUNE	TOWN COUNCIL	Sports & Community Centre	7.00 pm
09 JULY	TOWN COUNCIL	St Bartholomew's Church Centre	7.00 pm
10 SEPTEMBER	TOWN COUNCIL	Grace Darling Campus	7.00 pm
Tba	Finance Committee		
08 OCTOBER	TOWN COUNCIL	Sports & Community Centre	7.00 pm
12 NOVEMBER	TOWN COUNCIL	St Bartholomew's Church Centre	7.00 pm
10 DECEMBER	Finance Committee (Budget)		7.00 pm
2015			
14 JANUARY	TOWN COUNCIL	Grace Darling Campus	7.00 pm
11 FEBRUARY	TOWN COUNCIL	Sports & Community Centre	7.00 pm
Tba MARCH	Finance Committee		
11 MARCH	TOWN COUNCIL	St Bartholomew's Church Centre	7.00 pm
08 APRIL	TOWN COUNCIL	Grace Darling Campus	7.00 pm
13 MAY	TOWN COUNCIL	Sports & Community Centre	7.00 pm

