

## **Council Business**

### **Budget approved by council**

A Council Tax increase of 2.99% was agreed, along with a social care precept rise of 2%. Savings of £16,299 million for the year ahead were also agreed.

### **Libraries**

NCC has launched a public consultation about library services across the county. The consultation asks residents for their thoughts on proposals to redesign library services, following a review carried out earlier in the year.

Proposals include:

- Changes to opening hours
- Changes to the mobile library service
- New ways of providing access to books and services in rural communities
- Use of new technologies to create 'open access' self-service hours
- Some libraries being run by community volunteers

The consultation closes Monday 13 April.

**Reading for Wellbeing Group** (Lynemouth Library) - the funding for the Reading Facilitators who have supported and developed the Reading for Wellbeing project since its inception has always been external or temporary. Despite the success of the project, the Library Service has been unable to make the posts permanent, given the ongoing financial challenge it faces.

[What is being proposed? | Northumberland County Council](#)

### **Appointment of new senior officers**

Jon Ritchie has been appointed to the role of Executive Director – Transformation & Resources and Section 151 Officer (S151). Currently at North Tyneside.

Keith Carruthers has been appointed to the role of Chief Fire Officer. (Currently County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service).

### **Local Transport Plan**

The Cabinet has approved its Local Transport Plan, which for the first time covers a three-year period up to 2029. Authority is delegated to the Executive

## March 2026

### Cresswell Parish Council

---

Director of Place and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Roads and Highways to amend the programme as necessary over the period 2026-2029.

[Cabinet Report](#)

[LTP Programme](#)

#### **Great British Spring Clean**

NCC are once again backing Keep Britain Tidy's British Spring Clean this year. It takes place from 13 to 29 March. For Northumberland residents wishing to join, litter picking equipment can be accessed by emailing:

[highwaysandneighbourhoodservices@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysandneighbourhoodservices@northumberland.gov.uk)

[Keep Britain Tidy](#)

#### **Explore your Northumberland weekend**

On 21 and 22 March, Northumberland residents can redeem exclusive offers and discounts at some of the county's most-loved attractions during 'Explore your Northumberland' weekend.

This two-day festival is all about getting people out and about to enjoy Northumberland. Some of Northumberland's top attractions are joining in, so it's a great chance for residents to explore what's on their doorstep at a discounted price.

To take part, visitors need to show proof of Northumberland residency - a council tax bill, utility bill, or local ID at participating venues. Each offer has its own terms, and some need to be booked online, so check individual listings before you go. Full details of all offers and discounts are available on the main event page.

[Visit Northumberland's website.](#)

#### **Recycling rights and wrongs**

Over 23% of all material currently collected from kerbside recycling bins in Northumberland, is in fact contamination - including black bags, nappies, dog

## March 2026

### Cresswell Parish Council

---

waste, food waste, textiles and clothing and electrical items. One contaminated bin can result in an entire load of recycling (from multiple streets and hundreds of properties) being spoiled and rejected, meaning that it must be sent for incineration instead of being recycled.

By law, all householders have a legal duty of care to ensure all household waste produced at the property is disposed of safely and correctly.

To tackle the problem, crews will check bins before collection. Contaminated bins won't be emptied and will get a red tag, followed by a letter with advice. Residents get two warnings. A third contamination pauses the service until you speak with a recycling officer. A fourth means the service is stopped.

The Council will be expanding the range of materials that can be collected for recycling in Northumberland and introducing new recycling services later in 2026.

[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

### **Local issues**

#### **Update on the Lynemouth Gypsy, Roma and Traveller site.**

Towards the end of last year, the Council carried out a full review of GRT accommodation. This showed that the Lynemouth site<sup>1</sup> pitches in total—needed over £200,000 of investment and was only half occupied due to its poor condition. As the Council was not in a position to fund the necessary improvements, the decision was taken to offer the site for sale to the private sector, with strong interest from the travelling community itself.

The sale went ahead with strict covenants:

- the site must continue to be used for GRT accommodation; and
- all existing tenants' licences to be protected.

The Local Plan's GRT accommodation requirements remain fully met because no pitches have been lost - only transferred to private ownership. The new owners have now begun improvement works, including clearing long-standing fly-tipping and starting landscaping works, including a perimeter wall and gates.

In summary, the site remains in use for the GRT community, capacity is at present unchanged, and private investment is now being delivered to secure its long-term future. There is a possibility that future planning approval may be s

**Druridge Bay Partnership**

Partners continue to work hard to ensure a solution is in place ahead to tackle the problems experienced last summer. Moving forward:

- Maps for PSPO area are being finalised and approved
- Inspector Routledge working with schools to gather artwork (for signage consideration and PR)
- Comms support being firmed up
- Contract with Asset Watch
- Public consultation

**Speed Survey**

Officers intend to install the speed survey equipment on the telegraph pole opposite Orphir Lodge during the Easter break.