

North East Regional Joint Scrutiny Member/Officer Network

Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2024

Attendance:

Darlington Council: Cllr Bryony Holroyd, Cllr Mary Layton, Cllr Michael Nicholson, Paul Dalton, Hannah Miller, Shirley Wright
Durham CC: Stephen Gwilym
Gateshead Council: Cllr Stuart Green, Emma Fagan
Hartlepool Council: Cllr Michael Jorgeson, Gemma Jones
Middlesbrough Council: Cllr Ian Blades, Scott Bonner
Newcastle Council: Cllr Colin Ferguson, Cllr Stephen Lambert, Cllr Peter Lovatt, Cllr Wendy Taylor, Jessica Hall, Kate McLoughlin
Northumberland CC: Rebecca Grealley
Redcar & Cleveland Council: Cllr Mary Ovens, Cllr Vera Rider (Chair), Adam Lynch-Brown, Alison Pearson, Caroline Leng
South Tyneside Council: Emma Purvis
Stockton-on-Tees Council: Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Michelle Gunn
Sunderland: Nigel Cummings
North East CA: Gavin Armstrong, Michael Robson

1. Welcome

Cllr Vera Rider welcomed everyone to the Regional Member/Officer Scrutiny meeting held on Teams.

2. Apologies for Absence

Ed Hammond (CfGS)
Cleveland FRS: Cllr Mick Stoker
Darlington Council: Cllr Rebecca Baker, Cllr James Coe
Durham CC: Cllr Veronica Andrews, Cllr Bev Coult, Cllr Joyce Charlton, Cllr Rob Crute, Cllr Jonathan Elmer, Cllr Philip Heaviside, Cllr Cathy Hunt, Cllr Matt Johnson, Cllr Chris Lines, Cllr Ann Reed, Cllr Angela Surtees, Cllr Sam Zair
Gateshead Council: Cllr Brenda Clelland, Cllr Jill Green, Grace Anderson
Middlesbrough Council: Susan Lightwing
Newcastle City Council: Cllr Alistair Chisholm, Cllr Stephen Barry-Stanners, Cllr Mark Mather, Cllr Mark Mitchell, Cllr Dan Murray, Cllr Teresa Cairns
Northumberland Council: Lynsey Denyer
Redcar and Cleveland Council: Cllr Kendra Evans, Cllr Ian Hart, Cllr Christopher Jones, Cllr John Kabuye, Cllr Steve Kay, Cllr Karen King, Cllr Glyn Nightingale, Sarah Connolly
Stockton-on-Tees Council: Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Ann McCoy, Cllr Paul Rowling
Tees Valley CA: Connor Malone

3. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Agreed: That Cllr Peter Lovatt be appointed as Vice-Chair.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2024

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

5. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) Update

CfGS were not present at the meeting however it was noted that there were items already scheduled on the work programme and any further suggestions from members could be forwarded to Judy Trainer.

6. Scrutiny Structures

The Scrutiny Structures table circulated was discussed. This item would be discussed further at the December meeting, however, at this stage, Members were asked to indicate if there was any further information that should be added to the table and collected. The number of Members for each LA was requested, to understand the percentage of members eligible to sit on scrutiny committees.

It was noted that there wasn't a representative from North Tyneside on the network, and this would be followed up.

Discussion took place regarding the appointment of Chairs for Scrutiny Committees and whether these were from ruling or opposition groups for each LA. It was noted that the statutory guidance, which had recently been updated, referred to selection of Chairs and Culture but did not state how these should be sought.

Action:

- Add the number of Members for each LA to the table
- Add the number of Councillors on Cabinet
- Add whether Scrutiny Chairs are from the ruling or opposition group for each LA to the table
- Updated scrutiny statutory guidance be circulated

7. Local Authority Updates/Best Practice

• Supporting Young People into Employment Review

Cllr Stephen Lambert discussed the review that Newcastle CC had carried out regarding supporting young people into employment. The key points of the review included:

- There is a need for more level 1 courses
- There is a need for more part-time and work-based courses
- There is a need for intensive mentoring for NEETs and those at risk of NEET

A full discussion took place on the findings of the review and barriers for young people, including language, transport, types of course available, and individual support in further education. As part of the review, members conducted site visits of City Learning and spoke to young people.

The report was sent to Cabinet for their response, and this had recently been published.

- **Scrutiny Work Programmes**

The Scrutiny Work Programme table, which outlined the work of each authority was noted. This would be a standing item, with the network forwarding updates for inclusion.

8. Meeting schedule/potential agenda items for each meeting

The work programme was noted.

Action: an update on the legislation regarding meeting via Teams to be requested from CfGS.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 18 December, 10am MS Team meeting