

Newcastle Labour Group

Council Size Submission: Template

[Newcastle upon Tyne City Council]

Contents

How to Make a Submission	2
About You.....	2
Reason for Review (Request Reviews Only)	2
Local Authority Profile	3
Council Size.....	5
Other Issues	20

DRAFT

How to Make a Submission

It is recommended that submissions on future governance arrangements and council size follow the guidance provided and use the format below as a template. Submissions should be treated as an opportunity to focus on the future needs of the council and not simply describe the current arrangements. **Submissions should also demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been considered in drawing up the proposal and why you have discounted them.**

The template allows respondents to enter comments directly under each heading. It is not recommended that responses be unduly long; as a guide, it is anticipated that a 15 to 20-page document using this template should suffice. Individual section length may vary depending on the issues to be explained. Where internal documents are referred to URLs should be provided, rather than the document itself. It is also recommended that a table is included that highlights the key paragraphs for the Commission's attention.

'Good' submissions, i.e. those that are considered to be most robust and persuasive, combine the following *key success components* (as set out in the guidance that accompanies this template):

- Clarity on objectives
- A straightforward and evidence-led style
- An understanding of local place and communities
- An understanding of councillors' roles and responsibilities

About You

The respondent should use this space to provide the Commission with a little detail about who is making the submission, whether it is the full Council, Officers on behalf of the Council, a political party or group, a resident group, or an individual.

Newcastle upon Tyne Labour Group set up a working group of Labour councillors, including the Leader and also invited an ex councillor who had been involved in the last boundary review with the assistance of council officers to prepare this document. It has been approved by the Labour Group as well at the Labour Group executive.

Reason for Review (Request Reviews Only)

Please explain the authority's reasons for requesting this electoral review; it is useful for the Commission to have context. *NB/ If the Commission has identified the authority for review under one of its published criteria, then you are not required to answer this question.*

Not applicable

The Context for your proposal

Your submission gives you the opportunity to examine how you wish to organise and run the council for the next 15 - 20 years. **The consideration of future governance arrangements and council size should be set in the wider local and national policy context.** The Commission expects you to challenge your current arrangements and determine the most appropriate arrangements going forward. In providing context for your submission below, please demonstrate that you have considered the following issues.

- When did your Council last change/reorganise its internal governance arrangements and what impact on effectiveness did that activity have?
- To what extent has transference of strategic and/or service functions impacted on the effectiveness of service delivery and the ability of the Council to focus on its remaining functions?
- Have any governance or capacity issues been raised by any Inspectorate or similar?
- What influence will local and national policy trends likely have on the Council as an institution?
- What impact on the Council's effectiveness will your council size proposal have?

Local Authority Profile

Please provide a short description of the authority and its setting, in particular the local geography, demographics and community characteristics. This should set the scene for the Commission and give it a greater understanding of any current issues. The description should cover all of the following:

- Brief outline of area - are there any notable geographic constraints for example that may affect the review?
- Rural or urban - what are the characteristics of the authority?
- Demographic pressures - such as distinctive age profiles, migrant or transient populations, is there any large growth anticipated?
- Community characteristics – is there presence of “hidden” or otherwise complex deprivation?
- Are there any other constraints, challenges, issues or changes ahead?

Further to providing a description, the Commission will be looking for a submission that demonstrates an understanding of place and communities by putting forth arguments on council size based upon local evidence and insight. For example, how does local geography, demographics and community characteristics impact on councillor casework, workload and community engagement?

Newcastle upon Tyne Profile

The importance, significance and quality of Newcastle as the regional capital of the North East of England has been recognised for hundreds of years. In few parts of the country does one settlement form such a strong focus for a whole region. With a natural boundary to the south of the River Tyne, the city meets the countryside to the north and west and the urban area of North Tyneside to the east.

Although mainly urban by nature the city boundaries also include villages of Hazelrigg, Newburn and Throckley therefore widening the geographical area covered. The 2019 ONS population estimate of 300,820 was an increase from 289,800 in 2014 (when broadly the last boundary review was undertaken). By 2030 this is expected to rise further to 310,906. The population is boosted each year by people from the UK and internationally coming to Newcastle to attend university, with students attending Newcastle University (approx. 28000),

Northumbria University (approx. 33,500) and the higher educational part of Newcastle College.

The city is currently split into 26 wards, with three councillors to serve each ward. Councillors are elected in thirds and serve a four year term.

Newcastle has become more deprived between 2015 and 2019 moving into the most deprived quartile in the country. The main driver for this change has been the relative change of income within the city, with Newcastle now 24th out of 317 local authorities in England for income deprivation affecting children.

Life expectancy is also lower within Newcastle as compared to the national average. Newcastle also ranks below the national average when examining disability free life expectancy and therefore the potential for the need for more services from the council and the health sector.

The city has higher than national average deaths with a higher premature mortality rate caused by issues such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory problems. The current (2017-2019) directly standardised rate of death at 408 per 100,000 in Newcastle is higher than the rest of the North East at 392 and higher than England as a whole, 326. The challenges of the above mean that residents look to their civic leaders and the local councillors to lead an ongoing transformation in the city, that would have the potential to reverse these trends and support all of the residents.

For example, the administration recently introduced the cities first inclusive economic strategy and the first anti poverty strategy. The city centre transformation is our opportunity to deliver change and were produced in conjunction with the city key anchor institutions. The Council is delivering well against its target of net zero by 2030. The council has recently adopted a "Health in all policies" approach which will mean all councillors on committees e.g. planning, licencing as well as Cabinet members will need to consider the impact on the wider determinants of health on all policies and decisions made.

Work is underway to develop a movement strategy for the city, which will also contribute towards net zero ambitions and lead to a long-term vision to transform the City via a series of impactful interventions on both our major thoroughfares and some of our quieter streets at the heart of our city centre, including further pedestrianisation. These interventions are all designed to make our city a more welcoming and attractive place for everyone.

Newcastle intends to create a unique European destination for tourism, business and investment that people can continue to be proud of, attracting further investment and allowing Newcastle to continue to grow for its communities. The programme focuses on a collective of streets and spaces that each provide a different role and function within the city centre.

From its ship building and coal mining heritage, Newcastle has transformed itself into a leading cultural destination, renowned for being the business and social hub of the North East. The developments of the north bank of the River Tyne are significant and the public private partnership managing the quay with Shepherd Offshore is a critical economic driver for the existing offshore oil and gas industry as well as providing the catalyst for the transition to renewables and decommissioning

Culture has played a key role in helping Newcastle grow, in value and reputation, alongside contributing towards the ongoing achievements of our economic development, public health, quality of life and inclusion ambitions.

Newcastle is proud to boost world class theatres, museums, vibrant arts and entertainment venues and the best backdrop for world class Festivals, Events and Markets.

With a large and vibrant cultural sector embracing many artforms and organisations, in both the subsidised and commercial sectors, Newcastle is a city that believes all our residents are important. Our Arts Team has helped create an environment in which those organisations will flourish and support residents and visitors alike, to engage in the creative activity of their choice.

This level of change and work with so many different partners need active and engaged councillors throughout the city who will be able to link the changes needed with the desires and goals of residents. Significant change needs local councillors with the time to be able to deliver on projects, as they are the local face of the council who can bring forward the needs of their residents.

Council Size

The Commission believes that councillors have three broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: **Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulatory and Partnerships), and Community Leadership**. Submissions should address each of these in turn and provide supporting evidence. Prompts in the boxes below should help shape responses.

Strategic Leadership

Respondents should provide the Commission with details as to how elected members will provide strategic leadership for the authority. Responses should also indicate how many members will be required for this role and why this is justified. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic		
Governance Model	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What governance model will your authority operate? e.g. Committee System, Executive or other?</i> ➤ <i>The Cabinet model, for example, usually requires 6 to 10 members. How many members will you require?</i> ➤ <i>If the authority runs a Committee system, we want to understand why the number and size of the committees you propose represents the most appropriate for the authority.</i> ➤ <i>By what process does the council aim to formulate strategic and operational policies? How will members in executive, executive support and/or scrutiny positions be involved? What particular demands will this make of them?</i> ➤ <i>Whichever governance model you currently operate, a simple assertion that you want to keep the current structure does not in itself, provide an explanation of why that structure best meets the needs of the council and your communities.</i>
	Analysis	Since 1999, Newcastle City Council has been operating under an Executive style of political management in response to the Government's White Paper Local Leadership, Local Choice and the then Local

Government Bill. Following the enactment of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council appointed a Constitutional Forum to oversee public consultation on the three forms of executive government available under the Act:

- Leader and Cabinet
- Elected Mayor and Cabinet
- Elected Mayor and Council Manager

The Constitutional Forum published its report in September 2001. At a special meeting of the City Council on 12 September 2001, the Council resolved to adopt the Leader and Cabinet form, with effect from the Annual Meeting in May 2002. Changes to the 2000 Act made by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the Council to adopt one of two forms of executive arrangements to take effect from May 2010:

- Leader and Cabinet
- Elected Mayor and Cabinet

Following public consultation the Council at a special meeting on 4 November 2009 resolved to adopt the Leader and Cabinet form, with effect from 10 May 2010.

(The Newcastle Charter - [PART 1A - BACKGROUND \(newcastle.gov.uk\)](http://newcastle.gov.uk))

The Council has 78 councillors, representing 26 wards, with elections by thirds. Full Council elections were held in May 2018, following a LGBCE review and in thirds since then. The next fallow year will be 2025.

This structure will be the most effective in delivering the change needed for the city.

Excluding the 26 ward committees there are almost 90 committees that require political representation from Newcastle City Council, with around 350 places to fill.

In addition there are a range of appointments, not made directly by Newcastle City Council that cabinet members and other councillors are required, often linked to the North of Tyne Combined Authority (in the current structure), e.g. NTCA Investment Panel, NTCA Inclusive Economy Board

The Leader has a commitment of 1 full day per week relating to the North of Tyne Combined Authority, which comprises of the cabinet, pre cabinet, planning and leaders meetings. It is anticipated that this level of commitment will continue with the new arrangements under the North East Mayoral Combined Authority. The

		expectation that this will increase the time commitment for the leader and therefore increase commitment for cabinet members who will need to undertake roles that are currently covered by the leader.
Portfolios	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How many portfolios will there be?</i> ➤ <i>What will the role of a portfolio holder be?</i> ➤ <i>Will this be a full-time position?</i> ➤ <i>Will decisions be delegated to portfolio holders? Or will the executive/mayor take decisions?</i>
	Analysis	<p>The Cabinet comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader of the Council • Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for a Healthy, Caring City • Cabinet Member for Dynamic City • Cabinet Member for a Connected, Clean City • Cabinet Member for a Growing City • Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Secretary • Cabinet Member for a Resilient City • Cabinet Member for a Thriving City <p>Two opposition members from the Liberal Democrat Group attend Cabinet meeting as observers.</p> <p>These positions are not full time for the member to allow them to continue to undertake their careers outside of the council. Therefore, these roles are not remunerated as full-time posts that would expect the holder to resign from other sources of work. However, as demonstrated the level of weight of responsibility requires a significant time commitment by these members, who therefore need to be part of a ward-based team of three councillors to ensure that both cabinet and community work can be undertaken.</p>
Delegated Responsibilities	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What responsibilities will be delegated to officers or committees?</i> ➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in taking major decisions?</i>
	Analysis	<p>The Local Government Act 2000 provides for individual Cabinet members and officers to make decisions on behalf of the council. A scheme of delegation has been introduced to make the decision-making process more efficient. The same principles of openness and transparency that apply to Cabinet also apply to delegated decisions.</p>

		<p>A key decision is any decision that will involve the council incurring revenue expenditure or saving of £250,000 or more and capital expenditure of £1,000,000 or more or which will have a significant impact on the community, i.e. will materially affect one or more wards. Any items listed on the Forward Plan that do not fall within one of these categories are classed as non-key decisions.</p> <p>The Council officers provide professional advice and implement decisions through the day to day running of the authority and delivery of services, certain officers have the power to make decisions on behalf of the council and some have a specific duty to ensure that the council acts within the law and uses resources wisely, but there are a significant number of decisions requiring cabinet member authorisation. The nature of significant decisions required to be made are regular, and the nature and scale of financial decision making involved requires cabinet members to have a series of briefings to ensure they are making informed decisions, and the range of decision making across the whole council, decisions which impact on day to day service delivery, means that there is a clear need for sufficient political representation to enable the decision making process to move at a reasonable pace, and not impact upon the ability to run the authority services. Many of the city 's elected members are also employed or have other responsibilities and therefore the time implications must be considered, ensuring appropriate levels of political representation to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the authority.</p>
--	--	---

Accountability

Give the Commission details as to how the authority and its decision makers and partners will be held to account. The Commission is interested in both the internal and external dimensions of this role. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic	
Internal Scrutiny	The scrutiny function of authorities has changed considerably. Some use theme or task-and-finish groups, for example, and others have a committee system. Scrutiny arrangements may also be affected by the officer support available.
<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How will decision makers be held to account?</i> ➤ <i>How many committees will be required? And what will their functions be?</i> ➤ <i>How many task and finish groups will there be? And what will their functions be? What time commitment will be involved for members? And how often will meetings take place?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How many members will be required to fulfil these positions?</i> ➤ <i>Explain why you have increased, decreased, or not changed the number of scrutiny committees in the authority.</i> ➤ <i>Explain the reasoning behind the number of members per committee in terms of adding value.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Analysis</p>	<p>In May 2022, the new administration placed an increased emphasis on democratic participation and engagement with all members of council, and on the development of a scrutiny function which assists in the development of policy as well as providing robust and constructive challenge to decision making. As a result, the city council’s scrutiny structure was reviewed and on 7 September 2022. The range of work that has been included in the past year and will continue in the future includes:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Committee: June 2022 - May 2023</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Committee (OSCC) has a coordination role and a remit that covers all areas not covered by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HSCSC), the Economy, Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee (EJSSC) and the Finance and Budget Monitoring Scrutiny committee (F&BMSC). The OSCC is the council’s designated Crime and Disorder Committee. The OSCC is also responsible for scrutinising education matters.</p> <p>Scrutiny is a strategic function and central to corporate governance and decision making.</p> <p>Effective Scrutiny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides ‘critical friend’ challenge and support to decision making in the council • challenges and supports decisions of local partners • gives a voice to the concerns of local people • drives improvement in public services <p>OSCC Activity -</p> <p>Overall, 33 committee and sub-committee meetings were held over the period overseeing a varied work programme.</p> <p>Alongside the scrutiny committees’ work programmes, also established were one task and finish group during the period, Pupil Place Planning Admissions and Appeals, led by the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Committee.</p>

The final report of the former Overview and Scrutiny Committee led Asylum Seeker and Housing Task and Finish group was presented to Cabinet in October 2022. Over the last year there was also one meeting to consider a call-in request from non-executive members.

Scrutiny members have also participated in a number of external scrutiny committees and forums including: Joint OSC for the NE & NC ICS and North and Central ICPs, North of Tyne Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee, North East Joint Transport Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee, North East Joint Scrutiny Member/Officer Network.

Meetings are usually held every month, with significant preparation needed due to variety of work that comes to committee with respect to the breadth of content that is covered. High level of background work also needed to understand the multitude of potential issues that come before the committee.

Membership: 13 elected members (politically balanced) and up to 4 independent members

Members of the city council also are members of the scrutiny committee for the North of Tyne Combined Authority and also for the Joint Transport Committee, providing a scrutiny role on regional matters of governance

Audit Committee : 2022 - 2023 municipal year

The Audit Committee represents one of the major forms of governance and reassurance for the Council. The role is not just financial in nature but to also ensure the Council is effectively run. The activities of the Audit Committee provide an increasingly significant role to ensure the governance and control environments of the Council are robust and allow the Council to operate in an effective manner.

The committee function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management. The core functions of an effective Audit Committee as follows:

- Maintenance of governance, risk and control arrangements
- Financial and governance reporting
- Establishing appropriate and effective arrangements for audit and assurance

Application numbers - not applicable

Summary of work during the past municipal year -

Considered in depth the Council's Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22.

In cooperation with and after taking advice from our External Auditors we provided challenge from the draft accounts stage and throughout the external audit process.

Outcome: It is anticipated that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 will be approved without qualification.

Social Care issues (both Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care) have featured heavily as part of the work programme of the Committee this year. The Committee have considered demographic planning within adult social care and the impact this has both in terms of financial and service capacity requirements. The Committee has continued to provide robust challenge and constructive support in this area and has received good cooperation from senior managers in allowing the committee to understand specific issues facing these service areas. We continue to actively monitor and challenge this area and review emerging risks, anticipated impact and planned mitigations.

Outcome: Gained assurance that these risks are being effectively managed. Given these represent significant risks to the Council the Audit Committee will continue to scrutinise this area during the 2023/24 municipal year.

Major developments in the city centre.

This has covered physical developments in the city centre and also wider issues such as the implementation of the Clean Air Zone and Car Parking strategy. As part of this work we challenged senior management around the assumptions made and modelling techniques used when setting income budgets.

Outcome: The Audit Committee were able to gain assurance around the wider strategy for the city centre. Specific assurance was gained in relation to the income setting process through robust challenge to ensure that all reasonable factors are considered when setting fees and that income policies do not contradict other aims / policies of the council.

Received overview of Children, Education and Skills directorate.

Outcome: We welcomed the opportunity for the newly appointed at the time Director of Children, Education and Skills to present an overview of current and emerging risks and how these were being addressed.

Considered CIPFA Financial Management Review and proposed action plan to implement recommendations made within report.

Outcome: The positive outcome from the CIPFA review was welcomed by the Audit Committee. The implementation of the development areas outlined within the improvement plan will be monitored by the Audit Committee over the coming municipal year.

Standards Committee Co-Working, conducted the annual review of the Council's governance and internal control arrangements and updated the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

Outcome: Weaknesses in governance and internal controls identified and addressed, leading to strengthened and improved corporate governance.

Considered and approved the Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2022/23.

Outcome: agreed the Internal Audit Plan meeting the Council's requirements, leading to an effective audit function and audit coverage in line with corporate requirements and risk assessment.

Audit Committee review the annual and mid-year Treasury Management policy updates.

Outcome: Provided assurance of the adequacy of governance arrangements in relation to the Council's investment, borrowing and prudential indicators.

Reviewed the Accounting Policies to be used in the preparation of the Annual Report & Accounts for 2021/22.

Outcome: Accounting policies agreed and applied to the production of the 2021/22 accounts, leading to the Annual Report & Accounts being produced in line with recognised accounting standards and best practice.

Receive Quarterly Corporate Risk Monitoring Reports

Outcome: Ensures risks are suitably identified and addressed. Areas identified by the Committee for further review are investigated to provide progress assurance leading to improved corporate governance and assurance arrangements.

Self-evaluation of the effectiveness of Audit Committee.

		<p>Outcome: Positive endorsement of the work of the Committee by members, Senior Officers and our external auditors. Developmental areas identified which have formed part of the training plan for the coming municipal year.</p> <p>Membership: 5 Councillors plus 4 independent co-optees (voting) - politically balanced. (Chair to be independent co-optee).</p>
Statutory Function		<p><i>This includes planning, licencing and any other regulatory responsibilities. Consider under each of the headings the extent to which decisions will be delegated to officers. How many members will be required to fulfil the statutory requirements of the council?</i></p>
Planning	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What proportion of planning applications will be determined by members?</i> ➤ <i>Has this changed in the last few years? And are further changes anticipated?</i> ➤ <i>Will there be area planning committees? Or a single council-wide committee?</i> ➤ <i>Will executive members serve on the planning committees?</i> ➤ <i>What will be the time commitment to the planning committee for members?</i>
	Analysis	<p>The current planning applications received per quarter:</p> <p>2022/23 Q2 491 +50 pre apps/enquiries Q3 412 +43 pre apps/enquiries Q4 496 +59 pre apps/enquiries Total: 1910 (1042 registered in this period)</p> <p>2023/24 Q1 422 + 59 pre apps/enquiries Q2 436 + 36 pre apps/enquiries</p> <p>Planning committee meets every 3 weeks (for three hours each meeting), site visits every 3 weeks (take approx. 2 hours) and weekly meetings for Chair & Vice Chairs with officers. Significant agendas to digest for each planning committee and additional training sessions.</p> <p>Currently 10% of applications come to the committee for decision. Although there has been a reduction in the applications in 23/24 as compared to 22/23 this is expected to increase as the economy recovers from the inflation spike on materials, and there are some complex sites that are now in the pipeline to be considered</p>
Licensing	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How many licencing panels will the council have in the average year?</i> ➤ <i>And what will be the time commitment for members?</i> ➤ <i>Will there be standing licencing panels, or will they be ad-hoc?</i>

		<p>➤ <i>Will there be core members and regular attendees, or will different members serve on them?</i></p>
	Analysis	<p>There are two meetings per month on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays but also additional extra ad hoc sittings, Temporary Event Notices, Licence Reviews, with meetings lasting around 3 hours with three members on the panel. The members are taken from a pool of trained councillors who are expected to all participate in meetings throughout the year.</p>
Other Regulatory Bodies	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>➤ <i>What will they be, and how many members will they require?</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Explain the number and membership of your Regulatory Committees with respect to greater delegation to officers.</i></p>
	Analysis	<p><u>Regulatory and Appeal Sub Committee</u> sits 1st and 3rd Mondays - face to face taxi driver applications to establish if the applicants are fit and proper persons to serve the residents and visitors to the city. Committee has 14 members with three called upon for each meeting – 4 hours</p> <p>The papers for the meeting are issued a week ahead and require research and preparation of 2 to 3 hours by members who are attending.</p> <p>Members will each attend 5 of these meetings per year</p> <p>Also to sit on the sub committee on Dismissal Appeals that will draw upon three members from 14. This is held on a ad hoc basis</p>
External Partnerships		<p>Service delivery has changed for councils over time, and many authorities now have a range of delivery partners to work with and hold to account.</p>
	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>➤ <i>Will council members serve on decision-making partnerships, sub-regional, regional or national bodies? In doing so, are they able to take decisions/make commitments on behalf of the council?</i></p> <p>➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in this activity? And what is their expected workload? What proportion of this work is undertaken by portfolio holders?</i></p> <p>➤ <i>What other external bodies will members be involved in? And what is the anticipated workload?</i></p>
	Analysis	<p>Councillors and Cabinet members attend a range of decision making partnerships at sub-regional, regional and national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Board - a partnership arrangement with membership drawn from a range of organisations including Newcastle City Council, the NHS in Newcastle, Health watch Newcastle, the Voluntary and Community Sector and our two local universities. The Board works to improve the wellbeing and health of everyone in the

	<p>city, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parent Advisory Committee - monitors the work of the council and other related agencies in contributing towards positive outcomes for looked after children. • Voluntary Sector Liaison Group – a strategic group which oversees issues of relevance to the voluntary and community sector in Newcastle and its relationship with public sector partners in Newcastle. • Outside Bodies – Councillors in Newcastle are represented on a range of , joint committees, joint authorities, partnerships and outside bodies including (amongst others): Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Service; Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority; Northumbria Police and Crime Panel; North of Tyne Combined Authority (to become the North East Mayoral Combined Authority from May 2024); Newcastle International Airport Holding Company; Joint Tyne Bridges Committee; Joint Street Lighting Committee; North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus a further 50+ organisations across the city, region and nationally. Newcastle Safeguarding Children’s Board and Newcastle Safeguarding adults board. • The attached appendix highlights all the meetings scheduled that councillors attend. This is not expected to change significantly in the coming years
--	---

Community Leadership

The Commission understands that there is no single approach to community leadership and that members represent, and provide leadership to, their communities in different ways. The Commission wants to know how members are required to provide effective community leadership and what support the council offers them in this role. For example, does the authority have a defined role and performance system for its elected members? And what support networks are available within the council to help members in their duties? The Commission also wants to see a consideration of **how the use of technology and social media by the council as a whole, and by councillors individually, will affect casework, community engagement and local democratic representation. Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic		Description
Community Leadership	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>In general terms how do councillors carry out their representational role with electors?</i> ➤ <i>Does the council have area committees and what are their powers?</i> ➤ <i>How do councillors seek to engage with their constituents? Do they hold surgeries, send newsletters, hold public meetings or maintain blogs?</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Are there any mechanisms in place that help councillors interact with young people, those not on the electoral register, and/or other minority groups and their representative bodies?</i> ➤ <i>Are councillors expected to attend community meetings, such as parish or resident's association meetings? If so, what is their level of involvement and what roles do they play?</i> ➤ <i>Explain your approach to the Area Governance structure. Is your Area Governance a decision-making forum or an advisory board? What is their relationship with locally elected members and Community bodies such as Town and Parish Councils? Looking forward how could they be improved to enhance decision-making?</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Analysis</p>	<p>The population of the city has changed dramatically over the last decade, the city is much more diverse and there is a far greater ethnic mix. There are the global challenges of the pandemic and the increasing pressures of the cost-of-living crisis and fuel poverty. The city looks and feels different and the needs of many of our residents have increased. After 13 years of austerity many of the bodies and organisations that previously existed and provided valuable support and advice to local people have disappeared resulting in an increase in the amount of case work for Councillors, being the first and last port of call for many residents, frequently with increasingly complex matters. As a result, Councillors' workloads are expected to remain at their current high levels, as many residents find themselves in financial hardship. The rise in Anti Social Behaviour, poverty, deprivation, crime and the state of repair of the housing stock overseen by the council has added to the complexity of casework. The multi ethnic mix across the city means English is not the first language for many residents and this brings further pressures for councillors in attempting to support their constituents.</p> <p>Social media means that local councillors are expected by many constituents to be available 24/7, placing further pressure on them.</p> <p>Social media also means Councillors are having to be visible online as well as in their communities, spending time updating Facebook pages and dealing with queries via X or community sites.</p> <p>The attached diary in the appendix gives an example of a typical month of meetings and commitments for a councillor who also has cabinet role and has paid employment.</p> <p>It would be very difficult to carry out the Councillor role effectively if the current 78 elected member positions were reduced, in view of expanding workloads and increases to the electorate because of proposed new housing developments.</p>

		<p>Also, representation on both Council, scrutiny, and statutory public service groups, such as NHS, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue, Police commissioning groups, and combined Authority (soon to expand to NE Mayorality) all place additional pressure on Councillors time. Many Councillors also have school governor positions, group officer roles and roles within community interest companies and associations.</p> <p>The workload of both being an effective community representative along with fulfilling the duties of a city councillor are considerable in Newcastle.</p> <p>The Leader of Council works 3 full days and the weekend as a city councillor due to the many external and leadership responsibilities. He is self-employed so has flexibility, but the burden of responsibilities is significant and impactful on their own livelihood. Other leaders in neighbouring authorities are full time posts and remunerated accordingly.</p>
<p>Casework</p>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How do councillors deal with their casework? Do they pass it on to council officers? Or do they take a more in-depth approach to resolving issues?</i> ➤ <i>What support do members receive?</i> ➤ <i>How has technology influenced the way in which councillors work? And interact with their electorate?</i> ➤ <i>In what ways does the council promote service users' engagement/dispute resolution with service providers and managers rather than through councillors?</i>
	<p><i>Analysis</i></p>	<p>Councillors need to undertake several roles within communities providing leadership, this ranges from attending local resident's meetings and forums, liaising with local businesses and third sector organisations, youth groups and local schools to meeting with individual residents. Residents have high expectations of their Councillors., both in meeting the increasing demands they have, but also in an almost immediate way.</p> <p>New housing developments across the Northwest of the City has increased both geographic size and the number of the electorate, without increasing the number of ward Councillors.</p> <p>Councillors hold weekly surgeries in local venues, to enable members of the public to meet with their ward member. Surgeries are held in afternoons, early evenings, and weekends to facilitate accessibility. Regular Councillor newsletters are designed and delivered to residents in the ward, giving information about how they can be contacted, key decisions affecting the ward and good news stories. Methods of contact have changed over time, with social media platforms dominating how residents communicate, which also places immense pressure on Councillors when an immediate response is expected. Councillors use social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and X to provide regular information to residents, including dates and</p>

times of surgeries and walkabouts. Councillors are keen to promote any method of contact that is preferred by the resident, many residents contact their local Councillors by text or email, using messenger or WhatsApp and prefer to be contacted using the same method. This represents an extension of the old fashioned 9-5 working pattern and Councillors are now contactable 24/7.

Councillors also need to carry out regular estate walkabouts, street surgeries and drop ins, Councillors are regular visitors to community activities and visit our warm space venues across the city to increase accessibility to residents. Formal Organised Ward meetings usually lasts for 3.5 hours and is attended by all Councillors, Police, Housing and community groups. It is also a platform for public scrutiny, members of the public can ask questions, bring matters to the attention of their local Cllrs. Although these Formal meetings are yearly many ward Cllrs hold more regular meetings especially if there are controversial issues in their wards. For example, due to the introduction of Low traffic neighbourhoods and new cycle paths there have been numerous consultation events, resident meetings and chances to speak to Cllrs, Cabinet and Officers across the city.

The Council have delivered several new and essential strategies, the inclusive economic strategy, anti-poverty strategy, development of a city movement strategy, the development of the new Local Plan, and we are undertaking a strategic review of the housing services in the city. These all involve considerable councillor input, in attending meetings and briefings, and subsequently providing briefings for local residents, these all require further attendance and preparation meaning further time demands on the councillors.

Many members are attached to local community associations which provide facilities for all age groups. The Council's Youth Parliament is a voice for young people and actively engages with young people. Councils as a corporate parent actively encourages members to meet with young people to listen to their views on the care they are receiving. Many councillors are school governors or at least attend their local schools to encourage more young people to get involved and make a difference. Some Cllrs have set up projects directly with the young people in their ward to encourage involvement in local democracy.

Councillors are also actively involved with minority groups and their community representatives, volunteering at foodbanks, drop ins, helping and signposting to services that can assist those in need and help community integration and inclusion. There is regular engagement with the Racial Equality Forum. The forum is made up of organisations and statutory services that provide support, advice, or delivery of services to new and established migrants and migrant

communities and aims to provide a regular forum to discuss the needs of new and more established migrant communities in the city and shares information and good practice and identify solutions to common problems.

The Council and its partners in the Voluntary Community and Charity Sector (VCS) have established over 90 warm zones in our response to the cost-of-living crisis places to stay, to get warm, have a hot drink and encourage social interaction. Many of the warm spaces have welcomed our refugee families and asylum seekers promoting inclusion and are regularly visited and supported by local Councillors. Councillors also play a role working with Neighbourhood Policing Teams, attending Neighbourhood Watch, tenants and residents group meetings to listen to local issues and to promote and support community cohesion.

Access to information has changed with many residents accessing Council information and advice online via web pages and interactive screens in service areas and telephone contact centres. However, there are many residents who still prefer face to face contact, which is one of the main reasons for holding drop-ins and tea and talk in local hubs and other accessible venues, where people can come along and drop in for advice and assistance.

For example, one councillor stated, "In terms of time pressures, there is considerable demand from residents who often expect an immediate response on email, social media or the phone." This councillor has membership of 5 Council committees, including vice chair of Health & Care Scrutiny Committee and sits on 4 external bodies. She is also required to attend monthly full Council meetings and call-in scrutiny meetings when required. They are also a school Governor and sit as Chair on residents' neighbourhood environmental group.

Several local Councillors are also Service Champions, that have a specific role to a service area to improve awareness, promote inclusion and enhance the service offer. Currently 4 Councillors have taken up the challenge in • Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) • Arms forces • Mental Health • Cancer Champion • Food champion

Councillors have responsibilities and leadership positions with their political groups, both within and external to the Council all of this work is undertaken in addition to the Councillor's main role and can add a large number of hours each week onto an already busy schedule.

To further community engagement, Councillors need to provide support a number of voluntary organisations, these include Litter picking groups, Foodbanks, community kitchens, and Resident meetings, Community forums, whose

		<p>aims are to organise opportunities for local voluntary organisations, community groups, faith organisations or other not-for-profit organisations operating in the City.</p> <p>Councillors will undertake a large volume of casework, from general enquiries for advice and assistance to major crisis and deprivation cases. The complexity of cases has increased significantly with the cost-of-living crisis and fuel poverty, with many local residents struggling with financial hardship. This has increased the demand on both children's and adult social care. Anti-Social behaviour rose during covid with some Cllrs receiving huge amounts of calls daily on this issue. Although this reduced in terms of covid breaches ASB continues to fill up Cllrs mailboxes across the City. Crime is also an issue many residents are worried about and turn to Cllrs for support. Many of the wards in the City are in the most deprived neighbourhoods and a lot of time has been spent working with local foodbanks and support services to help ease the difficulties residents are facing. This is a trend that is expected to continue increasing, therefore, many Councillors will need to continue assisting residents with claims relating to council benefits and access to hardship funds as the wait for other agency appointments is often several weeks long due to increased workload. Investigating casework issues raised, working with internal and external agencies to resolve issues, drafting, and issuing correspondence, tracking casework, making site visits and monitoring outcomes are all carried out by Councillors themselves.</p> <p>Councillors use modern technology and social media platforms to engage with their electorate and Council officers, which is sometimes the preferred method of contact. Members are not issued with phones or tablets they are expected to purchase their own. Councillors contact officers directly and track their own caseload. Whilst there is some support available to the 78 Councillors from the Member services Team of two part-time officers, this is normally signposting and offering advice, stationary requests rather than significant work for the councillor.</p>
--	--	--

Other Issues

Respondent may use this space to bring any other issues of relevance to the attention of the Commission.

Summary

In following this template respondents should have been able to provide the Commission with a robust and well-evidenced case for their proposed council size; one which gives a clear explanation as to the governance arrangements and number of councillors required to represent the authority in the future.

Use this space to summarise the proposals and indicate other options considered. Explain why these alternatives were not appropriate in terms of their ability to deliver effective Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership.

The assessment of the correct number of councillors, and the way in which elections are undertaken comes from the information that has been previously given throughout this document. The Labour Party local working group examined the potential options following the research.

Option 1 – Increase the number of councillors to 81

The steady increase in the local population and the significant additional housing that has been built on the north and west of the city will have an impact on the community engagement workload of the councillors.

The local government boundary commission agreed in 2015/16 to a councillor number of 78. Since then, further population growth and a deterioration in the economic situation within the city has had an impact on the caseloads of councillors particularly in housing and council delivered benefit issues. In the near term the cost of living crisis is likely to increase the needs of a section of the population on council services. At the same time council cuts in staffing mean that councillors are needed to undertake more operational roles in the community, rather than a strategic nature that may have been the case in the past.

These changes, however, may be relatively short lived in the timeframe of a boundary commission and the ongoing use of technology to efficiently use some of councillor time should allow increase of workload in other areas to be compensated, therefore not requiring the increase in councillor numbers.

Option 2 – Maintaining 78 councillors with 3 per ward (26 wards)

The pattern of having three councillors per ward has worked well in Newcastle for several years. Key reasons have included:

1. The ability to make local decisions with an odd number of councillors allowing for a majority
2. Residents having the potential to elect councillors from different political parties or independents within the ward
3. Allowing for the election by thirds to continue. This allows the electorate to show their views three years out of four, giving them the ability to hold the council to account on a more frequent basis. It also maintains the electoral pattern with the other local authorities that made up Tyne and Wear (Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, North Tyneside, and South Tyneside). The recent boundary review carried out for South Tyneside has agreed to maintain the election by thirds, and therefore it is inappropriate that there should be electoral divergence from those authorities.

Maintaining the current level of councillors will allow for the continuation of the community leadership and engagement that is required in order to deliver the change the council needs and wants to achieve. Without the capacity that 78 councillors allow across the city the ability to deliver change projects such as city centre and suburb developments will diminish. The role of a councillor in Newcastle is not remunerated to allow it to be the individual's only source of income. Therefore, for the city council to be represented by people with a wide mix of backgrounds; employed, self-employed, retired, carers and parents / guardians, there is a need to have enough elected representatives so the role cannot become all-consuming of the individual's time. The experiences of a significant change management project such as the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, has shown that there are times when there are significant workload spikes for councillors, both in the community, and for the respective cabinet members, and as a consequence, fewer elected members would be unable to undertake the role properly due to the lack of time available.

Reducing the number will see a decrease in the scrutiny function and further requirements of the time of the leader of council and the cabinet to fill external body roles.

Often Councillors find it difficult to balance their role alongside full and part time employment, which is essentially why the role doesn't attract younger generations to stand. There has been a consistent churn of younger councillors in the city, often serving only one term as it is too difficult to be an effective city councillor and community representative as well as having full time employment and possibly also young families. The work life balance is too challenging and any reduction in the number of representatives would only exacerbate this and would impact on the representation of the city councillors. The danger of reducing the number of members would be the only people able to take on the role, would be those who are financially self-sufficient or retired, and this would not be good for democracy. To carry out a Councillor role effectively to the best of one's ability, you need to be able to devote a huge amount of time and energy, for what is essentially a full-time volunteer role. Adding more work by reducing Cllrs will also exclude large groups of people from representing their communities.

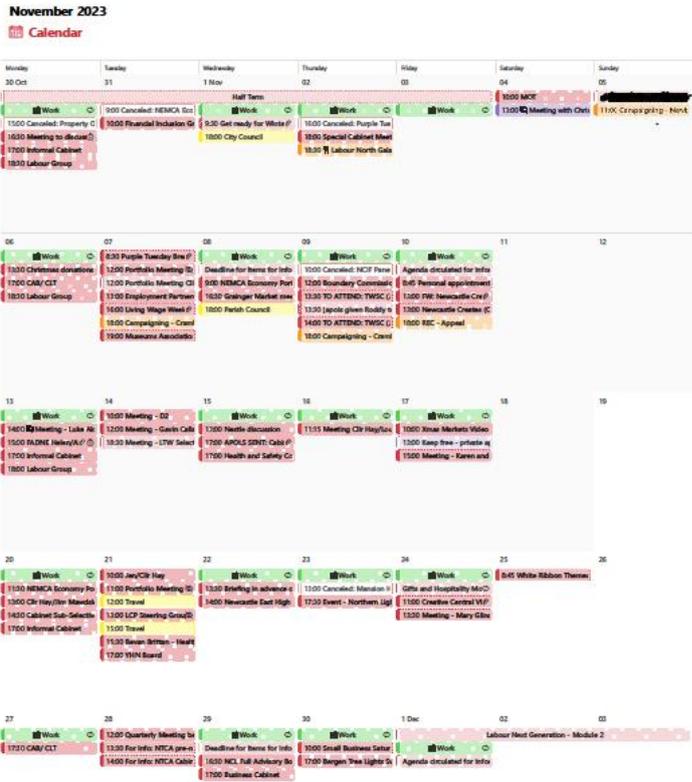
The Labour Group believe that councillors should reflect the diversity of the community they represent. For this to happen being a councillor needs to be compatible with a diversity of life situations e.g., being a parent or carer, full time, shift working, retired, living with a chronic health condition or disability, taking part in education or training, active involvement in community activities, sport or other leisure pursuits. Having three members per ward allows for team working on issues and giving time with cabinet or other roles within the council structure.

As noted in the profile the increase in deprivation within the city, plus the decision to bring the housing stock back into control from Your Homes Newcastle to the city council will have an increased impact on casework for councillors. The cost-of-living pressures are expected to remain for a number of years, and this can mean that residents will need to look for help for the first time and will turn to their local councillors in their community leadership role.

The consultation with the councillor group has shown concerns that the increasing workload should require an increase in the number of councillors. However, the conclusion was reached that the current number of 78 would be acceptable to maintain the functioning of the council and the important community engagement that needs to take place as this allows for both community representation and structural functioning of the council to continue. A reduction in the number will have a detrimental impact on the running of the council and the community support and engagement that Newcastle needs.

Appendix 1 – Councillor Diary Example

19/11/2023, 22:20



<https://outlook.office.com/calendar/view/week>

Page 1 of 1

**Schedule A
Committee Membership 2023/24**

City Council

Councillors: 78

Proposed day and time of meeting: Wednesday 6:00pm
 14 June 2023
 12 July 2023
 6 September 2023
 4 October 2023
 1 November 2023
 6 December 2023
 24 January 2023
 6 March 2024
 22 May 2024 at **2.00pm** - Annual Meeting

(A) Cabinet

(A) 1 Cabinet

Proposed day and time of meeting: Business meetings on 3rd Monday monthly at 6.00pm. (with exceptions). Policy meetings as and when required

Cabinet Appointments - for information

Councillors: 10 (plus 2 Liberal Democrat Observers)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of Council
Labour		Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for a Healthy Caring City
Labour		Cabinet Member for a Dynamic City
Labour		Cabinet Member for a Connected Clean City
Labour		Cabinet Member for a Growing City
Labour		Cabinet Member for an Efficient Council and Cabinet Secretary
Labour		Cabinet Member for a Resilient City
Labour		Cabinet Member for a Thriving City
Liberal Democrat		Observer
Liberal Democrat		Observer

(A) 1.1 Ad-hoc Cabinet Committees (Discretionary Rate Relief, Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing)

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required.

Cabinet Appointments for information

Councillors: 4 Cabinet members

(B) Governance Committees

(B) 1 Constitutional Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 12 (7+4+1)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice-Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Delegated Sub-Committee Member
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Newcastle Independents		

(B) 2 Standards Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: Quarterly

Nominations (Councillors): 6 members (3+2+1) plus 2 non-voting independent members (one of whom to be Chair) and 2 non-voting parish council members

Group	Name/Councillor	Comments
Labour		Joint Vice Chair
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Newcastle Independents		
n/a		Joint Vice Chair
n/a		Independent Chair
n/a		Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council
n/a		North Gosforth Parish Council

(B) 3 Audit Committee (advisory)

Proposed day and time of meeting: Quarterly

Nominations (Councillors): 5 (3 + 2) plus 4 independent members (one of whom to be Chair)

Group	Name/Councillor	Comments
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Continued over

Liberal Democrat		
n/a		Independent Chair
n/a		Independent Member
n/a		Independent Member
n/a		Independent Member

(C) Non-Executive Committees

(C) 1 Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 3 (2+1)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour	Nick Kemp	Leader of the Council (Chair)
Labour		Deputy Leader (Vice Chair)
Liberal Democrat		Leader of the Opposition

(C) 2 Planning Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: Friday 10:00am – every 3 weeks

Nominations (Councillors): 13 (9 + 4)

Participation subject to relevant training for new members with attendance at annual update training

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Delegated Sub-Committee Member

(C) 2.1 Planning Delegated Sub-Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 4 (3+1)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Liberal Democrat		

(C) 2.2 Planning Enforcement Action Sub-Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 4 (3+1)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Liberal Democrat		

(C) 3 Licensing Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 13 (9 + 4)

Individual applications will be considered by the **Licensing Sub-Committee** – meets twice per month on 2nd and 4th (Tuesday – from 9:30am to all day, with exceptions) comprising 3 Members from the full membership below. As far as possible each Sub-Committee meeting to be cross-Group and include the Chair or a Vice-Chair.

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

(C) 4 Regulatory and Appeals (Sub) Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9:00am.

Nominations (Councillors): 13 (9 + 4)

Applications and appeals will be considered by a 3 member **Regulatory and Appeals Sub-committee** drawn from the full membership below. As far as possible each Sub-Committee meeting to be cross-Group and include the Chair or a Vice-Chair. Members must be able to attend a minimum of one meeting every three weeks.

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Labour		Continued over
Labour		

Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

(C)5 Health and Wellbeing Board

Proposed day and time of meeting: Six meetings per annum

Organisation/Sector	Member	Comments
Newcastle City Council Elected Members	Leader of the Council (Vice-Chair)	Statutory
	Deputy Leader of the Council (Chair)	
	Elected Member from the Opposition	
Newcastle City Council Officers	Chief Executive Officer	Statutory
	Director of Public Health (DPH)	
	Director of Adult Social Care and Integrated Services (DAS)	
	Director of Children, Education and Skills (DCS)	
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership	Director of Place (Newcastle)	Statutory
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Chief Executive Officer	
Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyneside Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Chief Executive Officer	
Primary Care Networks	A Representative	
NHS England	A representative	Statutory
Health Watch	A senior representative	Statutory
Community and Voluntary Sector	Connected Voice Chief Executive	
	One other representative chosen through Connected Voice	
Newcastle University	A senior representative	
Northumbria University	A senior representative	
Newcastle College	A senior representative	
Northumbria Police	A senior representative	

(C) 6 Climate Change Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 1st Thursday 4.15pm - bi-monthly

Nominations (Councillors): 12 (9 + 3)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice-Chair
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Continued over
Liberal Democrat		

Liberal Democrat		
------------------	--	--

(D) Scrutiny Committees

(D) 1 Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 4th Thursday 3.00pm – monthly

Nominations (Councillors): 13 (9 + 4) Plus 4 statutory education co-optees (who have voting rights on any education matters). Membership to include the Chair and Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny

Position	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Chair
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(D) 1.1 Scrutiny Sub Committees and/or Task and Finish Groups

Proposed day and time of meeting: As and when required

Nominations (Councillors): Membership to be drawn from all non-executive members who agree to put themselves forward with the support of their groups, where appropriate.

(D) 2 Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 2nd Thursday 4:30pm – monthly

Nominations (Councillors): 10 (7 + 3)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(D) 3 Finance and Budget Monitoring Scrutiny Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 1st Tuesday 4.30pm - monthly

Nominations (Councillors): 10 (7 + 3)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Vice-Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Chair
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(D) 4 Economy, Jobs and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 2nd Monday 4pm - monthly

Nominations (Councillors): 10 (7 + 3)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Vice-Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		Chair
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(E) Ward Committees

(E) 1 Arthur's Hill Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 2 Benwell and Scotswood Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 3 Blakelaw Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 4 Byker Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 5 Callerton & Throckley Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 6 Castle Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		

(E) 7 Chapel Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Independent		
Independent		
Independent		

(E) 8 Dene & South Gosforth Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		

(E) 9 Denton and Westerhope Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Newcastle Independents		
Newcastle Independents		

(E) 10 Elswick Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 11 Fawdon & West Gosforth Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		

(E) 12 Gosforth Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
-------	------------	----------

Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		

(E) 13 Heaton Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 14 Kenton Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 15 Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 16 Lemington Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Newcastle Independents		
Newcastle Independents		

(E) 17 Manor Park Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		Continued over
Liberal Democrat		

(E) 18 Monument Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 19 North Jesmond Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(E) 20 Ouseburn Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrat		

(E) 21 Parklands Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		
Liberal Democrats		

(E) 22 South Jesmond Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 23 Walker Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

Labour		
--------	--	--

(E) 24 Walkergate Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(E) 25 West Fenham Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

(E) 26 Wingrove Ward Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: TBC

Nominations (Councillors): All Ward Councillors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

(F) Advisory Committees

(F) 1 Adult Learning Service

Proposed day and time of meeting: 3 times per year (date/time TBC)

Nominations (Councillors): 3 (2+1) plus 10 other members.

Group	Name/Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member/Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

(F) 2 Corporate Parent Advisory Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: Last Thursday at 5.30 pm – bi-monthly (with exceptions)

Nominations (Councillors): 9 (6 + 3)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

Labour		Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		
Co-opted Young Person		(No voting rights)

(F) 3 Mansion House Trust Advisory Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: as and when required

Nominations (Councillors): 3 (2+1) plus Lord Mayor and 3 external advisors

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member/Chair and Director of the Newcastle Mansion House Trading Company Limited
Labour		Vice Chair, Ward Member
Liberal Democrat		Ward Member
n/a		External adviser
n/a		External adviser
n/a		External adviser

(G) Joint Consultative Committees

(G) 1 Council Joint Committee

Proposed day and time of meeting: 3 per year – Jan/May/Sept

Nominations (Councillors): 4 (3+1)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair, Leader of Council
Labour		Vice Chair, Deputy Leader of Council
Labour		Cabinet Member
Liberal Democrat		

(H) Informal Groups

(H) 1 Town Moor Joint Working Group

Proposed day and time of meeting: 2 times per year

Nominations (Councillors): 5 (3 + 2)

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair/Cabinet Member

Labour		Vice Chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(H) 2 Voluntary Sector Liaison Group

Proposed day and time of meeting: Quarterly 2nd Thursday

Nominations (Councillors): 6 (4+2)

Membership to comprise 4 Cabinet Members, 2 opposition representatives and 6 voluntary sector members one of whom is Co-Chair

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Co-Chair, Cabinet Member
Labour		Cabinet Member
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

(H) 3 Historic Environment Advisory Panel

Proposed day and time of meeting: Quarterly at 11:30 on the last Wednesday of the month – Jun/Sept/Dec/March

Nominations (Councillors): 5 (3 + 2) plus 7 external members

Group	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair
Labour		Vice chair
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		



Schedule B

Representatives on North of Tyne Combined Authority and Joint Authorities/Joint Committees 2023/24

(All appointments are made until the next Annual Meeting).

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Cabinet

Number of Representatives: 2 NCC has to stipulate which member will be the voting member

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of Council

Labour		Deputy Leader of Council
Labour		Substitute Member
Labour		Substitute Member

NTCA Housing and Land Board

Number of Representatives: 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Number of Representatives: 3

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Labour		Substitute Member
Labour		Substitute Member
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

NTCA Audit and Standards Committee

Number of Representatives: 3

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Labour		Substitute Member
Labour		Substitute Member
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

North East Joint Transport Committee

North East Joint Transport Committee

Number of Representatives: 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader
Labour		Substitute member – Deputy Leader

North East Joint Transport Committee Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee

Number of Representatives: 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet
Labour		Substitute Member

North East Joint Transport Committee Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Number of Representatives: 2 (to reflect political balance across the LA7. Must not be members of NECA Leadership Board, NTCA Cabinet, NEJTC or Tyne & Wear Sub Committee)

Party	Councillor	Comments
--------------	-------------------	-----------------

Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Labour		Substitute Member
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

North East Joint Transport Committee Audit and Standards Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1 to reflect political balance across the LA7		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

Joint Committees

Collaborative Procurement Sub Committee (NEPO)		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Special Responsibility
Labour		Cabinet Member

Joint Street Lighting Committee		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Substitute Member
Labour		Substitute Member

Joint Tyne Bridges Committee		
Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

Newcastle International Airport Holding Company		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of Council
Labour		Alternate Director

North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1 – Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee or another nominated deputy		
Party	Councillor	Comments

Liberal Democrat		Chair of Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
------------------	--	--

Northumbria Police and Crime Panel

Number of Representatives: 2

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Strategic Board

Number of Representatives: 1 & 1 substitute & 1 rotating* (*appointed in September)

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Rotating Member
Labour		Substitute Member

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Tyne and Wear Joint Trading Standards Committee

Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Substitute Member

Tyne and Wear Pensions Committee

Number of Representatives: 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Substitute

Representatives on Other Bodies 2023/24

(All appointments are made until the next Annual Meeting unless otherwise stated).

Armstrong Centre Company		
Number of Representatives: 3 (2+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Alternate

Association of North East Councils Leaders and Elected Mayor's Group		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of the Council
Labour		Substitute Member

Association of North East Councils Ltd.		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of the Council

Association of North East Councils – North East Culture Partnership - Board		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments

Labour		Cabinet Member
--------	--	----------------

Byker Community Trust		
Number of Representatives: 1 (+ 1 officer)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Ward Member

Centre for Life Board		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

Centre West (Newcastle) Ltd		
Number of Representatives: 2 (Members must be from Monument, Wingrove or Elswick Wards)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Ward Member Monument
Labour		Ward Member Elswick

Charity of the Hospital of St Mary the Virgin		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

Eldon Square Company		
Number of Representatives: 3 (2+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Cabinet Member
Liberal Democrat		

Eurocities

Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

Exhibition and Brandling Parks Community Trust		
Number of Representatives: 2 (1 Member from South Jesmond Ward and 1 Officer)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Ward Member

Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership		
Number of Representatives: 6 (5+1) (fixed in accordance with terms of reference)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of Council
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Substitute
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Substitute
Liberal Democrat		Substitute

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Site Partnership Board		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

Heart of the City Partnership		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

International Newcastle Community Interest Company**Number of Representatives:** 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Observer

Joint OSC for the NE & North Cumbria ICS & North & Central ICPs**Number of Representatives:** 2

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		Substitute
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		Substitute

LGA General Assembly**Number of Representatives:** 4 (3+1)

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Leader of Council
Labour		Deputy Leader of Council
Labour		Cabinet member
Liberal Democrat		Leader of Opposition

MEA Trust**Number of Representatives:** 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

Newcastle Armed Forces Forum**Number of Representatives:** 1

Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Armed Forces Champion
Labour		Substitute

Newcastle Culture Investment Fund

Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Newcastle Fairtrade Partnership		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

Newcastle International Airport Consultative Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Ward Member

Newcastle Law Centre		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
TBC		

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

Newcastle Transport Forum		
Number of Representatives: 4 (3 + 1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair/ Cabinet Member
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors

Number of Representatives: 1 (+ 1 officer)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

North East Poverty Commission		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

North East Regional Employers Organisation for Local Authorities		
Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Executive Member
Labour		
Labour		Cabinet Member
Liberal Democrat		

North of England Reserve Forces and Cadets Association		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		

Northern Stage (Theatrical Productions) Limited (trading as Northern Stage)		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Governor – Members' Council

Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

Safe Newcastle Partnership		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Liberal Democrat		Opposition spokesperson for community safety - observer only – non-voting

Sport Newcastle		
Number of Representatives: 1 (+ 1 officer)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member -

St Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust		
Number of Representatives: 3		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)		
Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Continued over

Labour		
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Students in Newcastle Forum		
Number of Representatives: 8 (6+2)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Chair, Cabinet Member
Labour		Ward Member Ouseburn
Labour		Ward Member South Jesmond
Labour		Ward Member North Jesmond
Labour		Ward Member Monument
Labour		Ward Member Heaton
Liberal Democrat		
Liberal Democrat		

Taylor's Educational Foundation		
Number of Representatives: 3 Members from Lemington, Chapel, Denton & Westerhope or Callerton & Throckley (polling districts E01, E02,E03 and E04 only) wards		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
Labour		

Thomas Thompson Poor Rate Gift for the People of Byker		
Number of Representatives: 2 Members must be from Byker Ward		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

Tyne Port Health Authority		
Number of Representatives: 3 (2+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments

Labour		Cabinet member
Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Tyne Theatre and Opera House Preservation Trust		
Number of Representatives: 2		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		

Urban Green		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Continued over
Labour		<i>Under review</i>
Labour		

William Moulton Non-Ecclesiastical Charity		
Number of Representatives: 3		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		
Labour		
TBC		

World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy City Network		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

YHN Board (Your Homes Newcastle) (to 20 September)		
Number of Representatives: 4 (3+1)		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member
Labour		Cabinet Member

Labour		
Liberal Democrat		

Youth Offending Team Board		
Number of Representatives: 1		
Party	Councillor	Comments
Labour		Cabinet Member

DRAFT