

POLICY DIGEST, October 2016

This digest presents a summary of the latest policy developments at a national and regional level of strategic relevance to Northumberland and highlights Government announcements of relevance to local government. This issue covers period from Monday 3 October to Friday 28 October. Previous and subsequent editions are available at www.northumberland.gov.uk/policy.

Policy Development	Action	Lead
PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY		
<p>Growth and opportunity for all: Local solutions to national challenges</p> <p>In its submission to the Autumn Statement 2016, the Local Government Association (LGA) maintains that Local government is central to the delivery of locally tailored solutions to national public policy challenges, whether it is building more homes, securing the infrastructure and inward investment essential to economic growth, equipping people with the skills they need to succeed or providing sustainable and effective care to vulnerable children and older adults. Despite the funding challenges that Councils continue to face, local government has a proven track record of providing high quality, efficient services that are valued by residents. Councils bring an unrivalled track record to the task of building a society that is inclusive, cohesive and promotes the life chances of all. To deliver on these agendas, the LGA has set out how the Autumn Statement can draw on the unique strengths of local government to achieve a 'society that works for everyone'.</p> <p>http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/finance/-/journal_content/56/10180/5620943/ARTICLE</p>	For information	Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources
<p>More than 150 councils join the One Public Estate Programme (11 October 2016)</p> <p>The Cabinet Office and Local Government Association has announced that 159 councils will join the next phase of the One Public Estate programme. £7.5 million has been awarded to 37 partnerships made up of councils and public sector bodies. The funding will support cross public sector partnerships to work collaboratively on land and property initiatives leading to new jobs, new homes, joined up public services and savings for the taxpayer. In the North East, the</p>	For information	Paul Jones, Acting Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery

partnership of Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, and North Tyneside Councils have been awarded £225,000 from the Programme. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-150-councils-join-the-one-public-estate-programme		
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PLACE SHAPING		
<p>Let's get Britain building (4 October 2016)</p> <p>The Chancellor Philip Hammond and Communities Secretary Sajid Javid, have announced new measures to build more houses, more quickly, in the places people want to live. As part of the government's action to tackle the housing deficit and ensure everyone has a secure place to live, the Communities Secretary and the Chancellor made it clear that they are determined to take action and get more homes built. Measures see the launch of a massive £3 billion Home Building Fund. This will help to build more than 25,000 new homes this Parliament and up to 200,000 in the longer term. The fund will provide loans for small and medium enterprise builders, custom builders, offsite construction and essential infrastructure, creating thousands of new jobs in the process.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sajid-javid-and-philip-hammond-lets-get-britain-building</p>	For information	
<p>New 'central heating for cities' to help reduce energy bills (17 October 2016)</p> <p>Households across the UK could have their heating bills reduced, thanks to a new funding scheme announced by the government. The first part of a £320m fund will upgrade heating in towns and cities to supply Low Carbon and recycled heat. Dubbed 'central heating for cities', heat networks also have the potential to reduce heating costs, in some cases by more than 30%. The networks will mean cities can recycle the wasted heat they produce from places like factories, power stations and even the London Underground and pump it into homes and businesses to keep them warm. The £320m scheme will run over five years and further instalments of funding will be released in due course.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-central-heating-for-cities-to-help-reduce-energy-bills</p>	For information	
<p>New measures tackle overcrowded housing (18 October 2016)</p> <p>Minimum room sizes will apply to shared homes to help to clamp down on rogue landlords cramming tenants into unsafe and overcrowded homes, improving housing for thousands, Housing Minister Gavin Barwell has announced. Measures will strengthen councils to tackle problem homes head-on and bring an end to ruthless landlords who exploit tenants and charge them extortionate rents to live in poor conditions. The consultation proposals seek to improve standards for shared homes by making it clear that bedrooms must not fall below a minimum room size, closing a loophole which lets some landlords let out rooms far too small for an adult to occupy. Comments are requested by 13 December.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/houses-in-multiple-occupation-and-residential-property-licensing-reforms</p>	Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy

<p>The Value of the Bus to Society (24th October 2016)</p> <p>This report, from Greener Journeys, details for the first time, and following research from KPMG LLP and the Institute of Transport Studies at the University of Leeds, the social impacts of the bus. It provides very clear evidence of a very strong social case for the bus - which means that a policy supporting bus investment is not just a transport policy. It is a health policy, an education policy, a skills policy, an economic policy, a wellbeing policy, and a social cohesion policy.</p> <p>As the new Government looks to improve the life chances of everyone, and create a truly inclusive economy and society, this timely research demonstrates the significant social value of the bus.</p> <p>http://www.greenerjourneys.com/publication/value-bus-society/</p>	For information	Paul Jones, Acting Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery
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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY		
<p>Further certainty on EU funding for hundreds of British projects (3 October 2016)</p> <p>Following his announcement in August, which guaranteed funds for projects signed up until the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor has now extended this guarantee to the point at which the UK departs the EU. The Chancellor confirmed that the government will guarantee EU funding for structural and investment fund projects, including agri-environment schemes, signed after the Autumn Statement and which continue after we have left the EU. He was clear, while the UK is still a member of the EU, British businesses, farmers and other organisations must be entitled to apply for EU funds. Funding for projects will be honoured by the government, if they meet the following conditions: they are good value for money; and they are in line with domestic strategic priorities. As a result, British businesses, farmers and other organisations will have additional certainty over future funding and should continue to apply for EU funding while the UK remains a member of the EU. Each government department will take responsibility for the allocation of money to projects in line with these conditions and the wider rules on public spending. These conditions will be applied in such a way that the current pipeline of committed projects are not disrupted, including agri-environment schemes due to begin this January.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-certainty-on-eu-funding-for-hundreds-of-british-projects</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>Brexit North: Securing a united voice at the negotiating table</p> <p>This IPPR North paper makes the case for a Northern Brexit Negotiating Committee to consider and advocate for the type of Brexit that the north of England needs, just as other parts of the country will. It discusses the pressing issues and questions that this committee will need to address. The north of England depends more heavily on trade with Europe than other parts of the country, and has been a significant recipient of EU funding. Yet, taken as a whole, a greater proportion of people in the North voted to leave the EU than in other parts of the UK. This paper does not look at the</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy

<p>reasons for such voting patterns; instead, it focuses on the economic implications of the result. It argues that alongside trade and funding issues, the North has distinct economic assets and interests that will be affected by Brexit.</p> <p>http://www.ippr.org/publications/brexit-north</p>		
<p>New apprenticeship funding to transform investment in skills (25 October 2016)</p> <p>The government has set out how apprenticeships will be funded as part of the drive to help millions get the skills they need for a successful career and make Britain a country that works for everyone. Apprenticeships give people more control over their lives and can be the difference between just about managing and pursuing a skilled, long-term career. The government wants to give everyone this opportunity, regardless of their background or where they live, which is why we are giving more support for 16- to 18-year-olds and those from disadvantaged areas. The funding policy will underpin the new apprenticeship levy, which will deliver much needed investment in the skills we need to change the lives of millions. The government will continue to work with employers and providers as it introduces the reforms, to help ensure we transform our country's skills for the benefit of all.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-apprenticeship-funding-to-transform-investment-in-skills</p>	For information	Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills

HEALTH & WELLBEING		
<p>New public body offering debt advice, money and pensions guidance to be set up (9 October 2016)</p> <p>A new government body offering debt advice, money and pensions guidance is to be set up. Consumers will be able to find the help they need more easily on key financial matters from budgeting to getting their pensions questions answered. Reflecting on the options available to government, the Economic Secretary and the Minister for Pensions have agreed to take forward plans to develop a single public financial guidance body which is responsible for delivering debt advice, money and pensions guidance to the public. Earlier this year the government consulted on setting up a two body delivery model for government-sponsored guidance. This included replacing the Money Advice Service (MAS) with a new, streamlined, money guidance body, and bringing together the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and Pension Wise into a new, pension guidance body. Industry and consumer finance groups raised concerns about how two bodies might work together effectively and whether a single body would provide a better service for consumers. Ministers have listened to these concerns and have decided that a single body would be better able to respond to the different financial guidance needs of consumers, making it easier for them to get access to the help they need.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-public-body-offering-debt-advice-money-and-pensions-guidance-to-be-set-up</p>	For information	
<p>£40 million homelessness prevention programme announced (17 October 2016)</p> <p>A new £40 million programme to provide an innovative approach to tackling homelessness, with prevention at its heart, has been announced by Prime Minister Theresa May and Communities Secretary Sajid Javid. The Prime Minister has</p>	For information	Paul Jones, Acting Director of Local Services

<p>announced a fresh government approach to tackling homelessness by focusing on the underlying issues which can lead to somebody losing their home. This includes £20 million for local authorities to trial new initiatives, responding to the specific needs in their communities and focusing on prevention at an earlier stage. These areas will work with a wider group of at risk people to help families and individuals before they reach crisis point – including through new resident advice services and outreach work with landlords and private sector tenants.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-homelessness-prevention-programme-announced</p>		and Housing Delivery
<p>New care models - emerging innovations in governance and organisational form</p> <p>The 23 vanguard sites chosen to develop the multispecialty community provider (MCP) and primary and acute care system (PACS) new care models have been working to pool budgets and integrate services more closely. Some are continuing to use informal partnerships, but others are opting for more formal governance arrangements. Commissioners are grappling with how to contract for the new systems, while providers are exploring how to work together within emerging partnerships, how to allocate funding, and how to share risk and rewards. This report from the King's Fund looks at the different approaches being taken by MCP and PACS vanguards to contracting, governance and other organisational infrastructure. It focuses on developments at five sites: Dudley; Sandwell and West Birmingham (Modality Partnership); Salford; Northumberland; and South Somerset (Symphony Project).</p> <p>https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/new-care-models</p>	For information	Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adult and Community Care Services
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
<p>National evaluation of the first Troubled Families Programme (17 October 2016)</p> <p>The Government has published several reports from the independent evaluation of the first Troubled Families Programme which ran from 2012 to 2015. There were several strands to the evaluation. The synthesis report provides an overview and summarises all the other reports.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-evaluation-of-the-first-troubled-families-programme</p>	For information	Cath McEvoy, Director of Children's Services



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