

Cabinet

Monday, 22 June 2026

Present: K Clark (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, P Earley, J Hunter,
H Johnson, C Gray, T Hallway, W Samuel and
J Sharp

Apologies: Councillors J Harrison

CAB22/26 Outdoor Education Review

Cabinet received a report in relation to High Borrans Outdoor Education Centre (“the Centre”). The Centre is a residential outdoor education venue owned and operated by the Authority, located in the Lake District National Park. It provides outdoor learning for schools and some commercial users. The use of the Centre by schools in North Tyneside has declined over many years, with only 34 of 78 schools in the Borough using the Centre during the 2025/26 financial year.

For several years running the Centre has become increasingly challenging in terms of the cost of provide the service and basic maintenance of the asset. Annually maintenance of the property has been circa £250,000 reflecting the age of the asset. The Centre is reliant on income predominantly from schools (within and outside of North Tyneside), meaning that there is an inherent risk each year in not achieving the income target for the Centre, especially in light of school budget pressures and the cost of living pressures place on parents and carers.

Having carefully considered all of the options Cabinet noted that this is a very difficult decision, however, given the financial challenges linked to the building and subsidising delivery of the service Cabinet decided to choose Option 2 contained within the report.

Cabinet RESOLVED:

- (i) To choose option 2 of the decision options set out in 1.6 of the report;
Option 2 – The Authority ceases to operate the Centre as an Outdoor

Cabinet

- Activity Centre with effect from 30 November 2026 and;
- i. Declares the Centre as surplus to the Authority's operational requirements, and;
 - ii. Takes the necessary measures to dispose of the Centre on the open market and secure best value for the Authority.
- (ii) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Supporting and Protecting Children, the Director of Children's Services, the Director of Resources and the Head of Law to fully implement the decision taken by Cabinet in relation to the High Borrans Outdoor Education Centre; and
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Head of People and Operational Development and Head of Law to undertake all necessary consultation with members of staff and/or their Trade Union representatives if required dependant on decision.

Minutes re-published on 8 July 2026.