



# Council

**North Tyneside Council**

**To All Members of the Council**

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside to be held in **This meeting will be held remotely via Teams - Remote Meeting at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 21 January 2021** for the transaction of the following business.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
5. <b>Motions</b>	<b>3 - 6</b>
Three valid Motions on Notice, signed by at least three Members of the Council, have been received for consideration at this meeting.	
6.1 <b>Urgent Report - Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee</b>	<b>7 - 12</b>
To appoint a Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year, with effect from 22 January 2021.	

**Yours faithfully**

**Chief Executive**

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it.

North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

For further information please call 0191 643 5358.

**Contact Officers**      **David Brown (0191) 643 5358**  
**Paul Wheeler (0191) 643 5318**

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## North Tyneside Council Report to Council 21 January 2021

### Motions

Notice has been received of the following motions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

#### 1. **Motion signed by Councillors S Brockbank, L Bartoli and K Barrie**

Coastal Investment.

In advance of the Mayor presenting her budget at the next meeting of Council, North Tyneside Council asks:

The Mayor to note:

- Council currently holds over £66.9 million in reserves;
- Incomes of hardworking families in North Tyneside have been squeezed through this pandemic;
- North Tyneside Council has already been allocated an extra £8,260,000 for the coming financial year;
- Under this administration, Council Tax has increased by a whopping 24.4% since Mayor Redfearn's election as Mayor, leaving hardworking families hundreds of pounds per year worse off;
- Labour Leader, Kier Starmer, has called the proposed increase in Council Tax this year "absurd" given the current economic climate.

The Mayor to commit to:

- Freezing Council Tax for the coming financial year, taking into account the hardship that working families have experienced;
- Delivering a budget which will see significant investment in our coastal communities and businesses which have been hit hardest by the pandemic;
- Putting any increase in Council Tax to a public referendum to give residents the chance to have their say on further hikes;
- Considering further ways that those hardest hit by the pandemic can be supported to cover Council Tax contributions.

Legal Implications:

There are no immediate direct legal implications arising from this motion for the Authority. The motion seeks the Elected Mayor to commit to a number of particular suggestions. It should be noted that the responsibility for the determination of the Authority's budget is shared between the Cabinet and Full Council – each has a role in the development of the Authority's budget and the setting of the level of Council Tax. In the process of the determination of the budget and level of Council Tax, advice and guidance will be provided to the Elected Mayor and Cabinet and Full

Council by the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Resources as to the implications of any proposals.

Financial implications:

Tax now funds over 60% of the Council's net budget bringing increasing significance of any proposal to increase or freeze council tax on the Authority's ability to deliver services and to make any investment across the borough.

Freezing Council Tax will bring significant concerns of financial sustainability for the authority. The Local Government Act 2003, section 25, sets out the statutory duty of the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves. In regard to this requirement the Section 151 Officer necessarily considers the risks in relation to the financial position of the Authority at the time of setting the budget and also in the medium term. The advice of the Section 151 Officer is that the most significant risks to the Authority currently identified (although others exist and have been taken into account by the Section 151 Officer) are that: Central Government Funding will continue to reduce, the Authority will continue to be subject to increasing pressure, both demographically and financially with regard to the provision of Adult Social Care Services and the Authority will continue to be subject to increasing financial pressure, with regard to the provision of Children's Social Care Services, and, the challenging circumstances associated with the response and recovery to the COVID 19 pandemic. These pressures alone are significant when compared to unearmarked reserves.

The Reserves of £66.9m includes all Reserves, including School Balances, General Fund Balances and a number of earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves are for specific purposes for example grant reserves with specific spending conditions, and PFI reserves for managing the profiling of the PFI grant over the life of the contract. Un-earmarked reserves include the Strategic Reserve of close to £15million at 1 April 2020, and the Change Reserve at £7.297m at 1 April 2020. These are low levels of reserves (3.67%) for an organisation with gross revenue expenditure of over £600 million.

The direct cost of holding a referendum is anticipated to be in the region of £300k, with the costs associated with any revised billing requirements in the region of £250-300k.

The Local Council Tax support scheme continues to be in place to support residents, as do a range of other financial support mechanisms such as the Welfare Support Fund, Discretionary Housing Payments, Section 17 Payments for Children.

## **2. Motion signed by Councillors Sean Brockbank, Lewis Bartoli and Pam McIntyre**

Flood planning in North Tyneside.

Across many areas of North Tyneside, residents are concerned about the impact of flooding. In Monkseaton, for example, there are real worries expressed by the local community about alarming rises in water saturation on the fields adjacent to the Briar Vale locality and Langley Playing Fields; an area which will be heavily involved in the development of the Local Plan.

It was most welcome that Officers responded to Cllr. Brockbank's urgent enquiries on behalf of residents to offer some re-assurance, yet communities in our Borough will be rightly curious about what the Mayor and Council have in place to mitigate against extraordinary weather events in the years ahead. For some residents, it would appear that sandbags deposited in emergency situations along property boundaries, are not a planned response rather a stop-gap to plaster over a larger and more endemic issue.

Council calls upon the Elected Mayor and cabinet to review the flood response protocols, in light of weather anomalies, and in response to the proposed 3 000 extra houses proposed in coastal wards.

We also request the relevant cabinet member presents a detailed plan to the next meeting of Council on provisions to prevent a repeat of the severe flooding in Monkseaton - especially in light of the proposed Local Plan development.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications for the Authority arising from this motion.

### **3. Motion signed by Councillors L Bartoli, K Barrie and S Brockbank**

Anti-social behaviour.

Crime and anti-social behaviour have been on the rise in the aftermath of lockdown, Northumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner has herself admitted that antisocial behaviour in particular is on the rise. Figures show that between April and June last year there was a 101% increase in reports made to Northumbria Police, in comparison to the same period in 2019.

Anti-social behaviour has been a huge problem for our coastal communities, in June 2020 Northumbria Police stepped up patrols in a bid to clamp down on troublemakers following a weekend of anti-social behaviour and litter on North Tyneside's beaches. The Christmas period again saw problems with litter and antisocial behaviour caused by our coastal villages becoming destination spots for groups of drinkers who also flouted our Covid-19 restrictions. With national restrictions now re-imposed this council is concerned that this will be repeated once the latest lockdowns are relaxed without a clear plan to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

We therefore ask the mayor to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and request more support for our coastal communities as we move out of these national restrictions and to work constructively with all parties to put in place a clear plan to tackle anti-social behaviour along our coastline.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications for the Authority arising from this motion.

## North Tyneside Council Urgent Report to Council Date: 21 January 2021

### Title: Chair of Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Elected Mayor	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Mrs Norma Redfearn
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	Law and Governance
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Bryn Roberts, Head of Law and Governance
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
	<b>Tel: (0191) 6435339</b>

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

Following a change of sub-committee membership, the Council is required to appoint a Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year, with effect from 22 January 2021.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council appoints a Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year, with effect from 22 January 2021.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Given the recent change of membership, it has not been possible to include this item on the Forward Plan.

##### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not relate directly to any of the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities.

##### 1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 At the Annual Council meeting held on 16 May 2019, the Council appointed Councillor C Davis as the Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee.

- 1.5.2 Given the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, and pursuant to Regulation 6(c) of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, no Annual Meeting of the Council was held in 2020 and, pursuant to Regulation 4(2) of those Regulations, appointments which would have been made at the 2020 Annual Meeting were continued until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority determined.
- 1.5.3 In January 2021, the Monitoring Officer received notification, pursuant to Regulation 13(1)(a) of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, as amended by Regulation 5(2) of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991, of a change in allocated membership of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee. That change in allocated membership has led to a vacancy for the role of Chair. The Labour Group has nominated Councillor S Phillips for the role of Chair.
- 1.5.4 The Council is therefore requested to determine the appointment to the position of Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee.
- 1.5.5 The membership details of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee with effect from 17 May 2019 are appended to this report. The vacancy on the Committee will be filled in due course.

#### **1.6 Decision options:**

The Council is responsible for approving the appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of its committees and sub-committees. If more than one nomination is received for the position of Chair, a vote will be held with the nominee receiving the highest number of votes being appointed to the position.

#### **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

To ensure the appointment of a Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee is made for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

#### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Membership of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee (with effect from 17 May 2019).

#### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Dave Brown, Senior Democratic and Electoral Services Manager (Tel. 643 5358)  
David Dunford, Finance and Resources (Tel. 643 7027)

#### **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- Council minutes, 16 May 2019;
- North Tyneside Council Constitution;
- The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990;

- The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991; and
- The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

A Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,290 is payable to the Chair of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee. If a Member who does not currently have a Special Responsibility Allowance, is appointed as the Chair, the Allowance can be met from within the existing Law and Governance budget for Members' Allowances. This will be applied *pro rata* for the remainder of the municipal year.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Council is responsible for approving the appointment of chairs and deputy chairs of its committees and sub-committees.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

The Member approval process, at the Council meeting, provides the key element to the consultation process.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

As the recommendation is procedural and a recognised part of the business of the Council, no further risk assessment has been undertaken.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability issues directly arising from this report.

### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive  X
- Head(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service  X

**Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee Membership with effect from 17 May 2019**

1. Councillor Jim Allan
2. Councillor Linda Bell
3. Councillor Karen Clark
4. Councillor Julie Cruddas
5. Vacancy (to replace Councillor Cath Davis)
6. Councillor Joe Kirwin
7. Councillor Karen Lee
8. Councillor Maureen Madden
9. Councillor Pam McIntyre
10. Councillor Andy Newman
11. Councillor Pat Oliver
12. Councillor Steven Phillips (Deputy Chair)

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