

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 25 November 2021

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 6.00 pm in Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

Present

N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Arkley	Councillor K Barrie
Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor G Bell
Councillor L Bell	Councillor L Bones
Councillor T Brady	Councillor S Brockbank
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor C Burdis
Councillor J Cassidy	Councillor K Clark
Councillor D Cox	Councillor S Cox
Councillor J Cruddas	Councillor E Darke
Councillor L Darke	Councillor S Day
Councillor P Earley	Councillor S Graham
Councillor M Green	Councillor J Harrison
Councillor T Hallway	Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor C Johnson
Councillor H Johnson	Councillor C Johnston
Councillor J Kirwin	Councillor F Lott
Councillor W Lott	Councillor G Madden
Councillor M Madden	Councillor P McIntyre
Councillor A McMullen	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor J Montague	Councillor A Newman
Councillor P Oliver	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor M Rankin	Councillor P Richardson
Councillor W Samuel	Councillor J Shaw
Councillor M Thirlaway	Councillor J Walker
Councillor J Wallace	Councillor Westwater
Councillor M Wilson	

Apologies: Councillor J Allan, Councillor N Craven, Councillor C Davis, Councillor D Drummond, Councillor M Hall, Councillor J Mole, Councillor E Parker-Leonard, Councillor A Percy and Councillor J Stirling

C42/21 Public Questions

Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms D Robinson of North Shields

What is happening at Smith's Dock, when will it be developed? As yet, the area is still left standing bare whilst every other piece of riverside is snapped up and built on (Ouseburn for example) Yet, here we have in North Tyneside a vast expanse of prime riverfront land left like wasteland, When will it be sorted?

Councillor C Johnson responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

Thank you for the interest in bringing forward the remaining elements of the Smiths Dock site for additional residential development.

The Smiths Dock site is located at the western extreme of the Fish Quay and is identified as a housing site in the 2017 Local Plan being capable of sustaining some 815 homes. The site was also identified as a key housing opportunity in the North Shields and Fish Quay Master Plan which was adopted in January 2021.

An outline planning application was granted consent in 2013 for 815 units and subsequent reserved matters applications, which provided detailed designs for Phase A and B, were permitted in 2013 and 2016 respectively providing 114 new homes.

These have now been built and included the 'plateau site' delivered by Urban Splash and Places for People together with the stunning 'Smokehouses' apartments. Together these have provided high quality designs for this prominent site which have set a quality benchmark for further development opportunities. In addition, the highway infrastructure linking Smiths Dock and the Fish Quay with Tyne Commission Quay and Royal Quays, has also been provided which has created better connectivity between our riverside communities.

In terms of future delivery, the site is owned by Places for People who had always intended that the site be brought forward on a phased basis working with other development partners. Therefore, the Council has no control over the pace of delivery which is essentially a commercial matter for the owners and developers.

However, we are aware that the site has encountered unforeseen challenges and we have been working with Places for People to help resolve these and accelerate delivery on site to bring forward high quality new housing. Specifically, they have encountered some poor ground condition issues relating to a coal seam which requires remedial groundworks.

Working in partnership with the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Homes England together with Places for People, we have facilitated a successful case for funding and secured, in principle, an amount of up to £745k, to address the ground conditions and will accelerate the pace of delivery of future phases.

The Council understands that Places for People are currently assessing their design and delivery options in light of this funding award.

C43/21 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were reported as follows:

Councillor L Arkley – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor K Barrie – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor L Bell – Item 6 – Motion 8 - registerable personal interest as she works as a Personal Assistant that is funded by Adult Social Care.

Councillor T Brady – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor B Burdis – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor C Burdis – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor K Clark – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor E Darke – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor L Darke – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor S Graham – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor M Green – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor J Harrison – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor Janet Hunter – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor C Johnston – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor F Lott – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor W Lott – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor M Madden – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor T Mulvenna – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor P Oliver – Item 6 – Motion 8 - non-registerable personal interest as she has a family member who receives social care from the Authority.

Councillor J O'Shea – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor P Richardson – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor W Samuel – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as he receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor J Shaw – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

Councillor M Thirlaway – Item 6 – Motion 8 - non-registerable personal interest as he is employed by a social care provider.

Councillor J Walker – Item 6 – Motion 6 - non-registerable personal interest as she receives Free Prescriptions.

C44/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 (previously circulated)

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 September 2021 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

C45/21 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Council considered the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/23.

The Panel had recommended that no change be made to the current Members' Allowances Scheme for the 2022/23 financial year, with Members allowances to continue being index linked to the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

The Chair thanked the Panel for their work and report.

It was moved by the Councillor M Rankin and seconded by Councillor C Johnson that:

Council approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2022/23.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 53 votes to 0 votes.

C46/21 Motion 1: Tynemouth Remembrance Parade and Service

It was moved by Councillor L Bartoli and seconded by Councillor C Johnston that:

On the 14th of November the Councillors for Tynemouth were proud to lay wreaths, with the Council's crest emblazoned in their centre, on the war memorial in Tynemouth Green.

Sadly, the organisation of, and funding for, this Remembrance event has once again fallen on the shoulders of the residents, community groups and faith groups of Tynemouth. The Church of the Holy Saviour launched a 'GoFundMe' page, whilst the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, the Village Association, the T.A. Centre and Tynemouth Scouts, to name a few, also provided funds and assistance.

The Remembrance Service in Tynemouth is extremely well attended attracting upwards of 500 local residents making it one of the largest such events yet to be recognised officially and is a credit to all those who help to organise it. Councillor Bartoli asked for this event to be recognised as an official Council event in 2019, to remove the financial burden from the residents, to grant it the acknowledgement it deserves, and to use the Council's profile to raise awareness of the event both in Tynemouth itself and elsewhere in the borough. This request was refused citing police withdrawal of support for road closures and insufficient resources and finance.

With many millions in reserves, the relatively small costs associated with the event could easily be funded whilst those who voluntarily provide their services are ready to continue with their support.

Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to reconsider this decision and to make the Tynemouth Remembrance Parade and Service part of the Civic Calendar permanently.

An amendment was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor S Day as follows:

Delete 1st paragraph:

“On the 14th of November the Councillors for Tynemouth were proud to lay wreaths, with the Council’s crest emblazoned in their centre, on the war memorial in Tynemouth Green”.

And replace with paragraph:

“On the 14th of November the Councillors for all wards were proud to lay wreaths, with the Council’s crest emblazoned in their centre, on war memorials around the borough”.

Delete 4th paragraph:

“With many millions in reserves, the relatively small costs associated with the event could easily be funded whilst those who voluntarily provide their services are ready to continue with their support”.

Add new 4th paragraph:

“Council notes that all Tynemouth councillors raised the issue of funding with the council this year and the Mayor requested our Armed Forces champion Andy Newman, Cabinet member for Culture and Leisure Sarah Day and Cabinet member for Finance Martin Rankin work on a proposal to support all of the currently recognised community remembrance services held around the borough”.

Delete Paragraph:

“Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to reconsider this decision and to make the Tynemouth Remembrance Parade and Service part of the Civic Calendar permanently”.

Replace with paragraph:

“Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to assist with the funding, promotion and logistics of not just the Tynemouth event but the other 6 community events held around the borough”.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 53 to 0 votes.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 53 votes to 0 votes.

C47/21 Motion 2: Memorials

It was moved by Councillor G Westwater and seconded by Councillor S Brockbank that:

‘This Council notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the

country, and on residents here in North Tyneside.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 140,000 people in the UK have died of COVID-19.

This Council recognises that several authorities across the country are using blossom trees as a memorial to those who have lost their lives due to COVID and to remember the NHS staff, carers and key workers who have done so much for their communities during the pandemic.

Council therefore requests that the Mayor and Cabinet create a cross-party working group to find a way for a blossom tree memorial, or other suitable memorial, to be created at an appropriate location in North Tyneside.

This will help the community remember all those who have lost their lives to COVID, give thanks to those who have cared for the vulnerable during the pandemic, and work in conjunction with the Council' Tree Planting Strategy.

An amendment was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor W Samuel as follows:

Insert new 4th paragraph

This council recognises that as noted at the members briefing session on the 16th on September. The Mayor and Cabinet had requested plans be drawn up for a permanent memorial and public consultation began last week.

At new 5th paragraph delete wording

“Cabinet create a cross-party working group to find a way for a blossom tree memorial, or other suitable memorial, to be created at an appropriate location in North Tyneside”.

And replace with

“on the conclusion of the consultation report back to a cross party working group to decide how to proceed with the memorial”.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 53 votes to 0 votes.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 53 votes to 0 votes.

C48/21 Motion 3: St Mary's Coastline

It was moved by Councillor P McIntyre and seconded by Councillor G Westwater that:

Our lovely coastline is the jewel in North Tyneside's Crown, well used by many residents and attracting thousands of visitors. Council welcomes work to be done on the Northern Promenade under phase two of the regeneration, and notes the efforts made to match this with the earlier work south of the Rendezvous Cafe such as matching shelters, seating, handrails, and bins.

However, Council is very disappointed that the promenade surface will not be continued for

its entirety. Retaining the old worn paving slabs will leave this large section of the Northern Promenade looking neglected and second rate.

Residents and visitors have voiced their disappointment that the regeneration of the Northern promenade is not going to be the same standard throughout the length of the promenade from Watts Slope heading North.

To have the entire Northern promenade with the same surface will be of benefit to all of the coastal wards enhancing its visual appearance.

Council therefore requests that the Mayor and Cabinet reconsider the surface of the promenade, and seek the use of matching materials for the length of promenade north of the Rendezvous Café

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was defeated by 42 votes to 9 votes.

C49/21 Motion 4: £2.5 Million underspend reallocation

It was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor S Brockbank that:

Council notes that at the Finance Sub Committee meeting on 14th September at 6pm the Provisional Finance Outturn Report shows an underspend of £2.500 million for the last financial year. The current proposal is for this money to be put into reserves. Council asks that the Mayor instead allocates this money to set up an emergency pavement and pothole repair fund, more than match funding Central Government's contribution, therefore ensuring North Tyneside get back on top of our crumbling roads and pavements.

A recorded vote on the Motion, was requested by two Members present.

Votes for the Motion,

Councillors L Arkley, K Barrie, L Bartoli, L Bones, S Brockbank, C Johnston, P McIntyre, J Wallace and G Westwater.

Votes against the Motion

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors G Bell, L Bell, T Brady, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, J Cruddas, E Darke, L Darke, S Day, P Earley, S Graham, M Green, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, A McMullen, J Montague, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, P Richardson, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was defeated by 43 votes to 9 votes.

C50/21 Motion 5: In-Work Poverty

It was moved by Councillor M Thirlaway and seconded by Councillor K Clark that:

North Tyneside Council believes that the record number of people living in in-work poverty is a national scandal and that rising levels of employment have failed to translate into higher living standards for too many hard-working people. We believe, that while paid employment

is the best route out of poverty, low pay and the rising cost of living are seriously hindering social aspiration and upward mobility.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to the Prime Minister asking for funding for local authorities to tackle in-work poverty.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 43 votes to 0 votes, with 9 abstentions.

C51/21 Motion 6: Free Prescriptions

It was moved by Councillor W Samuel and seconded by Councillor S Day that:

Council notes with alarm Government proposals to scrap free prescriptions for the over sixties in England, aligning free prescriptions in future with state retirement age. On top of the many other increases in the cost of living, this represents a further attack on the living standards of those least able to afford it. Council asks the Elected Mayor to write to the secretary of state for health and social care to protest in the strongest possible terms.

A recorded vote on the Motion, was requested by two Members present.

Votes for the Motion,

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors L Bartoli, G Bell, L Bell, L Bones, T Brady, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, J Cruddas, E Darke, L Darke, S Day, P Earley, S Graham, M Green, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, C Johnston, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, A McMullen, J Montague, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, P Richardson, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

Votes against the Motion

Abstention

Councillors L Arkley, K Barrie, S Brockbank, P McIntyre, J Wallace and G Westwater.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 46 votes to 0 votes, with 6 abstentions.

C52/21 Urgent Motion 7: Government rail chaos

It was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor S Graham that:

Reason for requesting the motion being heard as urgently.

The governments Integrated rail plan was only released after the deadline for questions and motions and by the time of the next council meeting these issues will be well down the primary legislation process and government spending commitments.

North Tyneside council notes:

- The Conservative Governments Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) is a disaster for the North East.
- That while the North East was never to benefit from High Speed 2 track, the IRP means no HS2 trains will now come to the North East and the planned depot at Heaton has been cancelled.
- The IRP cuts means that the North East will no longer be part of the core Northern Powerhouse Rail network further cutting us off from the rest of the North.
- Capacity on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) north of York has been a major issue holding back our region.
- The IRP has cut the proposed capacity on the ECML from the proposed 9 down to 7 trains per hour a paltry improvement of 1 train per hour.
- The Conservative Government have also refused to take forward crucial work on the Leamside line which would unlock further passenger routes in the North East and create capacity on the ECML by removing freight.

North Tyneside council believes:

- That the IRP will curtails the regions connectivity and be an economic hammer blow for the North East
- The Conservative Government far from levelling up our region as promised are actively ruling out investment in our region

North Tyneside council call upon the Mayor to:

- Write to the Prime Minister urging him to reverse the cuts to the Eastern leg of HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and to progress with the reopening of the Leamside line.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 43 votes to 9 votes.

C53/21 Urgent Motion 8: Social Care

It was moved by Councillor A McMullen and seconded by Councillor J Kirwin that:

Reason for requesting the motion urgently.

The governments amendment to the bill occurred after the deadline for questions and motions and by the time of the next council meeting these issues will be well down the primary legislation process and government spending commitments.

North Tyneside council notes:

- The new social care levy of 1.25% which the government is imposing on North Tyneside residents will provide no additional money this year, next year or the year after for North Tyneside council to spend on social care.
- The only money the government will allow any local councils to raise will be via the social care council tax precept, which was introduced in 2015 meaning that the government is yet again passing responsibility for paying for social care back to local residents.
- The 2019 Conservative manifesto proclaimed that no one would have to sell their homes to pay for social care.
- The average home owner in North Tyneside would have to use up to 40% of their

home value to pay for social care while in Kensington and Chelsea this is only 6% of their home.

- Someone with £106,000 in assets would be left with £20,000 and not be eligible for any means tested funding.
- The 'social care cap' only includes the cost of care and does not include other social care costs such as accommodation and subsistence.

North Tyneside Council believes:

- The Conservative Governments social care plan does nothing to fix the immediate crisis in social care.
- People in North Tyneside will be forced at the hands of the Conservatives to sell their home to pay for social care.

North Tyneside council call upon the Mayor to:

- Write to the Prime Minister urging him to properly fund social care for local authorities and to properly fund social care so no one has to sell their home.

A recorded vote on the Motion, was requested by two Members present.

Votes for the Motion,

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors G Bell, L Bell, T Brady, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, J Cruddas, E Darke, L Darke, S Day, P Earley, S Graham, M Green, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, A McMullen, J Montague, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, P Richardson, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

Votes against the Motion

Councillors L Arkley, K Barrie, L Bartoli, L Bones, S Brockbank, C Johnston, P McIntyre, J Wallace and G Westwater.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 43 votes to 9 votes.

C54/21 North Tyneside Council Statement of Licensing policy (Gambling)

The Council received a report that detailed the requirement for Local Authorities by the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act") to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy and to revise the Policy at least every three years.

The report presented the final proposals and sought approval of the policy following consideration by Cabinet, Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee and following the conclusion of a 6-week consultation process.

It was moved by Councillor C Burdis and seconded by Councillor C Johnson that:

Council

(1) Approve the Statement of Licensing Policy appearing at Appendix 1, including the proposed delegations in Part D of the Statement of Licensing Policy; and

(2) Pass a resolution not to issue casino premises licences under section 166 of the

Gambling Act 2005.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 52 votes to 0 votes.

C55/21 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of North Tyneside Council

Council received a report and was asked to note the provided information of the intention of The Local Government Boundary Commission for England to carry out a review of the Ward arrangements and overall composition of the Council.

Council agreed to note the report.

C56/21 Chair's Announcements

In her announcements the Deputy Chair informed the Council meeting of a number of events she had attended which included:

The Trafalgar Day 'Toast the Admiral' at Collingwood Monument, Tynemouth, where Captain Catherine Jordan RN, Commanding Officer for HMS Collingwood delivered the address.

She launched this year's Poppy appeals in Wallsend and Whitley Bay.

On the centenary of the British Legion she represented North Tyneside Council at the ceremony in Saltwell Park, Gateshead which opened this years field of remembrance.

She attended Armistice commemorations at Killingworth Jigsaw Memorial, Benton and Whitley Bay and commented on how the events were well attended.

She also opened a Memorial Garden at Howdon Community Centre.

She also attended the unveiling of a Blue Plaque in Coburg Street, North Shields to celebrate the life of Hilton Valentine of the Rock Band, "The Animals".

C57/21 Elected Mayor's Announcements

In her announcement the Elected Mayor informed the Council of the recently received White Ribbon accreditation.

She stated the accreditation demonstrates the commitment of North Tyneside Council to end violence against women and girls.

She informed and encouraged participation of the Council's annual DIVA (Don't Ignore Violence and Abuse) Walk, that was to take place on Sunday 28 November, starting at Tynemouth Priory at 11am and ending at Waves Leisure Centre, Whitley Bay.

C58/21 Questions by Members of the Council

"In November 2020, full Council unanimously approved a motion calling on the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider a ban on the intentional release of balloons and sky lanterns.

Acknowledging that some of these releases are linked to the deaths of loved ones, the motion also requested the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to identify one or more pieces of land to be repurposed as "memorial meadows" where the bereaved could scatter wildflower seeds and return to visit. A year later, can the Elected Mayor explain why such a piece of land has not yet been identified and publicised, so that wildflower planting can start to replace the environmentally damaging release of balloons and lanterns?"

Councillor C Johnson responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

The Authority is currently reviewing various activities that take place on Council owned land and are considering these activities within its existing regulatory powers and framework. These activities include the release of balloons and sky lanterns. There was a global pandemic when this motion was passed and which caused delays.

An officer working group has been established and is due to report to Cabinet early in the early part of 2022.

Councillor J Wallace asked the following supplementary question:

Its concerning that little has happened in the time this motion was passed and the delay in undertaking action in relation to the Motion of November 2020. Councillor Wallace also stated that a further Motion from July 2021 had also been delayed and asked that Motions of Council be implemented swiftly.

Councillor C Johnson responded as follows:

The actions to be undertaken in relation to the Motions mentioned would be investigated and progressed.