

# Local Government Act 1972

## Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 20 January 2022

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 20 January 2022 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

Councillor D Drummond (Chair)  
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Arkley	Councillor K Barrie
Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor L Bones
Councillor S Brockbank	Councillor B Burdis
Councillor C Burdis	Councillor K Clark
Councillor D Cox	Councillor S Cox
Councillor N Craven	Councillor S Day
Councillor S Graham	Councillor Janet Hunter
Councillor C Johnson	Councillor H Johnson
Councillor C Johnston	Councillor F Lott
Councillor P McIntyre	Councillor A McMullen
Councillor J Montague	Councillor A Newman
Councillor J O'Shea	Councillor A Percy
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor M Rankin	Councillor W Samuel
Councillor J Shaw	Councillor J Stirling
Councillor M Thirlaway	Councillor J Walker
Councillor J Wallace	Councillor Westwater
Councillor M Wilson	

Councillor C Johnson informed the meeting that following discussion with the Director of Law & Governance prior to the meeting it was agreed that the following Labour Group Members would not attend due to Covid-19 safety.

**Apologies:** Councillor J Allan, Councillor G Bell, Councillor L Bell, Councillor T Brady, Councillor J Cassidy, Councillor J Cruddas, Councillor E Darke, Councillor L Darke, Councillor C Davis, Councillor P Earley, Councillor M Green, Councillor J Harrison, Councillor T Hallway, Councillor John Hunter, Councillor J Kirwin, Councillor W Lott, Councillor G Madden, Councillor T Mulvenna, Councillor M Hall, Councillor J Mole, Councillor P Oliver, Councillor E Parker-Leonard and Councillor P Richardson

**C59/21 Public Questions**

**1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mrs S Armstrong of Shiremoor**

Please can you tell me what NTC are doing to combat litter and rubbish which is becoming a huge issue in my area. I walk my dog every day at the Cobalt Nature Reserve, which your offices directly overlook, and I am horrified at the amount of litter in this beautiful place.

The Algernon industrial estate, also less than a mile away from your offices, is an utter disgrace with rubbish and litter everywhere. I'm sure this is not a unique problem and this must be issue across the whole borough.

Could the council consider litter wardens who issue on the spot fines for people dropping litter?

This used to happen in the 80's and we didn't have the litter issue that we have now.

*Councillor S Graham responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:*

Thank you for this question which covers an important issue for the council and our residents.

The council has a team of officers (the Community Protection Team) who carry out patrols across the borough and issue fixed penalty notices for environmental issues such as littering, dog fouling and fly tipping, where appropriate.

Fines range from £80 to £400, depending upon the offence and over the past few years, we have issued over 300 fixed penalty notices for litter, dog fouling and fly tipping offences.

Also, as part of the council's commitment to tackling environmental issues such as littering and dog fouling, an additional two environmental enforcement CCTV vehicles were introduced last year. The council now has a total of three prominent CCTV vehicles which help to increase the coverage of patrols across the borough, providing greater visibility and confidence to residents.

In response to your feedback, we have been out to take a look at the areas you have mentioned, and I'm pleased to let you know that clean ups are taking place across the park. The Community Protection Team have also arranged to carry out patrols in the area and will take action, where appropriate.

We are also working with the businesses on the industrial estate and will complement additional work where necessary to keep the area clean and tidy.

Lastly, I think it's important to mention that whilst the council will continue to take action against those individuals who do not dispose of their litter and waste in the correct way, litter is everyone's responsibility, and we can all do our bit to contribute to keeping North Tyneside tidy and litter free.

I would like to make a special mention and thank you to all the clean-up and community groups who go out sometimes on a daily basis to help clean up our borough working with us all on a purely voluntary basis and they are a great help.

Thank you again for raising this important issue.

## 2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Prosper of Whitley Bay

"The Council appear committed to the provision of a coastal active travel route - and this is very welcome - but will the Council commit to extend this provision to the rest of the Borough and have a comprehensive active travel network by issuing and consulting on its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)?

Other local authorities in the North East of England have either already consulted and issued their LCWIP (e.g. Newcastle, South Tyneside, Durham) or are currently consulting on it (e.g. Sunderland) and it is unclear when North Tyneside Council will undertake the same exercise and ensure meaningful community input. Without a LCWIP and associated work programme, any proposed cycling and walking improvements will remain "ad hoc" and disjointed."

*Councillor S Graham responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:*

North Tyneside benefits from a wide variety of routes which support active travel, including the extensive Wagonways network, and I am certainly determined to continue to improve and develop our already high quality network further.

Last year we adopted the new Our North Tyneside Plan, committing to further increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling. And we updated our Transport Strategy, which has a key aim to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport.

In addition, in 2018, we introduced a Cycling Strategy which emphasises our support for everyday cycling and includes a London-style 'tube map' of the strategic cycling routes we are connecting up across the borough.

Since then, our work has continued. For example, we have installed direct and convenient cycle tracks alongside A189 Salters Lane, delivering a section of our cycling 'tube map' which links to Killingworth, Longbenton and to various business parks in the corridor.

We have this week started work to put in protected cycle lanes on the A191 New York bypass and on Rake Lane. It will include new pedestrian crossings at the roundabout to allow safe walking and crossing.

Over the next 12 months we will be pressing ahead with the regeneration of North Shields, including a new link which will make it much easier to walk between the town centre and the Fish Quay. We carried out public consultation on these plans last year and have taken people's feedback on board to finalise the shape of the schemes.

In line with Government guidance, we are preparing a draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan [LCWIP]: this is based on our cycling network of 'tube map' routes and connecting routes, particularly in our town centres and this plan will be consulted upon later this year.

The new plan will provide further supporting evidence to help us as we seek funding to deliver an even better networks for cycling, walking and all forms of active travel. This will complement our aim – set out in the Our North Tyneside Plan – to publish an action plan, and seek national investment, to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by our new and ambitious target of 2030.

### 3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Stenning of North Shields

The council's Winter Maintenance Policy states that "the safe movement" of cyclists and pedestrians must be ensured as part of the winter maintenance policy, but we see little evidence of this commitment on the borough's designated cycle paths. Moreover, following Storm Arwen and the considerable impacts across the borough, obstructions and debris remain on many of the borough's cycle, pedestrian, and shared paths many weeks later, posing a particular danger to those cycling and to their cycles.

Research shows that failing to clear cycle paths not only deters cyclists on days when there is ice/snow/other debris but also more generally as travel choices need to be safe, reliable and consistent day in day out (see

<https://twitter.com/NTyneLivingSt/status/1467424856014794753?s=20>)

In this light, we ask the mayor and her cabinet:

- What resources are committed to clearing and ensuring the safety of cycle paths in the borough, in the context of both snow/ice and other weather events, and how are the council's cycle paths currently prioritised for clearing?
- How is winter maintenance integrated into the council's current schemes for extending and upgrading its cycle network (on the seafront, in town centres, metro links etc.) to meet the council's expressed desire to enable more residents to walk and cycle safely in the borough, not least to achieve the council's Net Zero commitments?

*Councillor S Graham responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:*

Thank you for this question.

Gritting the highway is very important in terms of road safety. In fact, The Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty on a Highway Authority, (in our case North Tyneside Council), to take reasonable steps to remove accumulations of snow or ice from priority highways.

In accordance with this Act, we have designated some 240 miles of priority highway (strategic routes) to receive treatment under our Winter Maintenance Policy.

We have 12 gritting vehicles and a team of 28 drivers who are on call 24 hrs a day from 1 October to 30 April and they respond, whenever road conditions require it.

I can confirm that some of our cycleways that are adjacent to the priority network like the Coast Road are included and are gritted or treated as part of this service.

Our plans and approach will always take into consideration the extension and any upgrade of the priority network, including the cycle network along the seafront and our town centres.

In addition to road gritting, we have also positioned grit bins in areas of high footfall, such as town centres and shopping locations and will treat these areas when required. Grit bins are also provided across the borough in community locations of high risk, to assist communities to keep areas safe.

Whilst we can't treat every footpath and cycleway in the borough when the temperature drops to freezing, we do make every effort ensure there is safe movement across the

borough for all highway users including buses, cars, cyclists, motorcyclists on all our strategic routes.

In relation to the impact on the borough of Storm Arwen, we are still responding to the devastating impact the storm had on many homes, businesses and public places across the borough, including our wagon way and cycle network.

Following the storm, we have redirected a lot of our resources to carry out clean-up operations. Unfortunately, due to the extent of the damage caused by the storm, the clean-up is ongoing in some of these locations for a few weeks to come.

I hope this information provides you with assurance of the council's commitment to keep the borough's road network safe during the winter and times of extreme storm. I hope you can bear with us, as we complete the storm Arwen clean up. We are making good progress and we will get there - soon.

#### **4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Appleby of Cullercoats**

As we are all aware, we're in the midst of a serious and deteriorating climate and nature emergency. Having adopted soft targets in 2019, the council has now accepted the need to take stronger action.

However, due to the delay, we don't have yet an adequate climate emergency action plan and as such the budget commitments to this issue are out of date and wholly inadequate.

Given this, can the council confirm when the revised Climate Emergency Action Plan will be ready and given the urgency of action, will the council recognise the need to pre-allocate funds in the budget to enable rapid action this year, as planning proceeds.

*Councillor S Graham responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:*

Thank you for this question.

Over spring and summer 2020, despite the pandemic, the Council worked with key stakeholders to develop its Climate Emergency Action Plan which was presented to Cabinet in the October of that year. At that time, the Council was working towards a 2050 target and the action plan included a number of key objectives, including improving energy efficiency, and decarbonising power, heat and travel.

And I am pleased to report that we are delivering against those objectives. For example, we are converting all of our street lights to LED, installing low carbon heating in our leisure centres and cross tenure homes, installing renewable energy systems in homes, electrifying our vehicle fleet and supporting the uptake of electric vehicles by residents through our Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

Following Council agreeing our ambitious policy commitment to publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030, we are working hard to refresh our plans and we will present an action plan to Cabinet later this year.

However, the hard work continues and refreshing our action plan isn't stopping us from delivering projects that reduce our carbon footprint.

As we develop our action plan, we will be identifying fully costed projects. We will continue to bid into grant funding from Government where possible and present investment opportunities to the Council's Investment Programme Board where grant funding is not made available, just as we did for our street lighting LED project.

The Council's budget proposals for this year also include initial Capital investment growth for climate emergency initiatives to support key strategic decarbonisation projects such as electrification of the Authority's vehicle fleet and are based on current market costs.

We are working at pace to deliver on our 2030 commitment and whilst the Government is working to a 2050 target, we are trying to mirror their plans but at a quicker pace for the residents of North Tyneside. We want to take our residents and businesses with us and influence change where we do not have direct responsibility and to that end, we will soon be setting up an outward facing Climate Emergency Board with businesses and other stakeholder organisations working together to make North Tyneside a greener decarbonised borough fit for the future.

**C60/21            To receive any Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were reported as follows:

Councillor H Johnson – Item 5 – Motion 1 – non- registerable personal interest as she is a Member of the Jewish Labour Movement.

Councillor M Thirlaway – Item 5 – Motion 1 – non- registerable personal interest as he is a Member of the Jewish Labour Movement and Local Government Friends of Isreal.

**C61/21            Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 (previously circulated)**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2021 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**C62/21            Motion 1 - International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance**

It was moved by Councillor G Westwater and seconded by Councillor L Bones that:

On the 27th September 2017 Council agreed to sign up to the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism, and the supporting guidelines. This was subsequently adopted within the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy. With Holocaust Memorial Day just a few days away and with many new faces in the Chamber we are asking for Councillors elected after September 2017 and those that were not able to be present to be given the opportunity to show our support for this definition and for the remaining Councillors to reaffirm their support.

We request Council votes to endorse and reaffirm our commitment to the IHRA's definition of Antisemitism.

This will send a clear message that Antisemitism will not be tolerated within North Tyneside

Council.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism and supporting guidelines state:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or

demanded of any other democratic nation.

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved unanimously.

### **C63/21          Motion 2 - Tyne Tunnel charges**

It was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor P McIntyre that:

Council notes the difficulties some residents have faced with the change in Tyne Tunnel payment to a cashless service. At present residents have to pay the toll online or at a Paypoint by midnight the day after their journey. Some residents have been shocked by the lack of publicity around the changes in advance of their introduction, and some residents have reported fines being issues despite tolls having been paid.

Council also notes that a petition has been running online (<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/tyne-tunnel-fines>) and has, at time of writing, received over 10,000 signatures. That petition asks that TT2:

- “1. Cancel all unpaid toll charges issued in the last 6 months prior to 1st January 2022.
2. Increase the time period for which to 'pay later' from 48 hours to 5 working days.
3. Engage in a concerted advertising campaign to ensure people are fully aware of how the Tyne Tunnel now works and encourage frequent travellers to sign up for a pre-paid account.
4. Scrap the current penalty charge system and replace with the following more ethical structure: For those who miss their deadline to pay should receive an initial fine of no more than £20, which should be reduced to £5.00 if paid within 14 days of the date the fine was generated. These amounts are more ethical and affordable to the average user of the Tyne Tunnel - many of whom come from working class backgrounds or may be suffering from hardship due to the current economic climate. If paying a penalty charge then the original 'toll fare' should be taken out of the fine paid so that people are not being charged extra. If a person fails to pay the initial £20 fine within 28 days, it should rise to no more than £40 and only after a period of 42 days should this be passed to a debt collection agency where "additional administrative charges" of no more than a further £25 should be added.
5. Review the appeals process and produce clear guidance that is publicly available on what the policies of TT2 Limited are in relation to travel through the tunnel, what the toll prices are, and the penalty charge procedures. Ensuring that each individual case is considered carefully and with sensitivity.”

(Petition © Gary Spedding)

Council therefore asks the Mayor to write to TT2 asking them to take the action requested in the petition.

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 B Burdis, C Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, S Day, D Drummond, S Graham, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, F Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, A Newman, J O'Shea, N Percy, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was defeated by 28 votes to 9 votes.

**C64/21            Motion 3 - Cost of Living**

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

Council notes with alarm the pressures on the cost of living for residents in North Tyneside.

Already facing the Government imposed cuts in Universal Credit and the National Insurance tax hike in April combined with rising inflation families in the borough will struggle to make ends meet.

To add insult to injury, it looks possible that the standard variable tariff for energy is likely to be increased by around 50% pushing many residents into fuel poverty.

Council asks the Elected Mayor to write to the Government asking that all possible measures, such as a reduction in VAT are looked into with a view to mitigating the impact of these increases on our people.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved unanimously.

**C65/21            Motion 4 - Storm Arwen**

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

North Tyneside council notes:

- Storm Arwen caused devastating damage right across North Tyneside, many homes, businesses, and public places were severely damaged with many forced to move out of their homes in the run up to Christmas.
- North Tyneside council's staff did some incredible work to assist residents in the greatest need on immediately following the storm and continue to do so in the aftermath and clean-up.

North Tyneside Council believes:

- The Conservative government's response was totally inadequate.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Mayor to:

- Write to the Prime Minister to raise our concerns with the way the situation was handled and to commit to providing funding to aid the recovery.

An amendment was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor S Brockbank as follows:

Under "North Tyneside council notes:" add an addition bullet point statement as follows:

- There is still a significant amount of work to be done by the Council with many fallen trees still blocking public access. There is also now a huge backlog of existing work which has now been pushed even further back.

Delete

North Tyneside Council believes:

- The Conservative government's response was totally inadequate.

Under "North Tyneside Council calls on the Mayor to:" add an addition bullet point statement as follows:

- Launch a cross party inquiry into the handling of Storm Arwen by North Tyneside Council, including what work is outstanding and what lessons can be learned, and report back to full Council before the end of the municipal year.

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 B Burdis, C Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, S Day, D Drummond, S Graham, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, F Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, A Newman, J O'Shea, N Percy, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

The amended Motion, on being put to the meeting, was defeated 28 votes to 9 votes.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor M Rankin as follows, that:

Under "North Tyneside council notes:" add an addition bullet point statement as follows:

- There is still a significant amount of work to be done by the Council with many fallen trees still blocking public access. There is also now a huge backlog of existing work

which has now been pushed even further back.

Under "North Tyneside Council calls on the Mayor to:" add an addition bullet point statement as follows:

- Launch a cross party inquiry into the handling of Storm Arwen by North Tyneside Council, including what work is outstanding and what lessons can be learned, and report back to full Council before the end of the municipal year.

The amended Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved unanimously.

The substantive motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 28 votes to 0 votes with 8 abstentions.

### **C66/21            Urgent Motion 5 - Prime Minister**

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

Reasons for urgent motion request: Since the deadline for questions and motions the Prime Minister acknowledged he had attended a party in Downing Street and therefore this motion was not possible before; it is clearly a matter of the utmost public interest, debate, and outrage.

North Tyneside council Notes:

- While the rest of the country was under the tightest restrictions, and while we could not be with our loved ones when they passed away, nor mourn their deaths with our family or friends, the Conservative Prime Minister oversaw a culture of boozing and partying in Downing Street.
- That our residents who elected us to serve them have rightly expressed their absolute outrage at the behaviour of the Prime Minister and Conservative advisors, and Downing Street staff.

North Tyneside council believes:

- Boris Johnson and the Conservative leadership are laughing in the face of ordinary people, setting rules, and urging people to follow rules, they had no intention of following themselves.
- Boris Johnson should immediately resign from his position as Prime Minister.

North Tyneside Council calls upon the Mayor:

- To write to the Prime Minister condemning his actions over the culture of partying and boozing and asking him to resign immediately.
- To suggest that the North Tyneside Conservative Group, whose members have so publicly supported him, not just ask the Prime Minister to consider his position as they have done, but to go further and ask the Prime Minister to resign immediately.

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

### **Votes for the Motion**

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors B Burdis, C Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, S Day, D Drummond, S Graham, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, F Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, A Newman, J O'Shea, N Percy, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W

Samuel, J Shaw, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

**Votes against the Motion**

None

**Absentions**

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 28 votes to 0 votes with 9 Abstentions.

**C67/21 Timetable of Meetings 2022/23**

Council received a report seeking approval to a programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2022/23 municipal year and to determine which Council meetings would be designated for public questions.

It was moved by Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn and seconded by Councillor C Johnson that:

Council:

- (1) agree the programme of meetings for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A to the report; and
- (2) agree that the meetings of full Council proposed for 21 July 2022, 24 November 2022 and 19 January 2023 be those at which questions will be taken from members of the public.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously approved.

**C68/21 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair thanked staff, stall holders everyone that was involved in the North Shields Christmas Victorian Market, which had been a very well attended event.

The Chair also reminded the Chamber of the upcoming Holocaust Memorial week which would be commemorated online this year.

**C69/21 Elected Mayor's Announcements**

The Elected Mayor expressed her gratitude for the effort of all Council employees in ensuring services and support continued over the last couple very difficult years.

**C70/21 Questions by Members of the Council**

There were no valid questions received from Members for this meeting.