



# Council

**North Tyneside Council**

**To All Members of the Council**

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside to be held in **Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 21 July 2022** for the transaction of the following business.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
1. <b>Public Questions</b>	<b>3 - 6</b>
Six valid question has been received from a member of the public for this meeting.	
2. <b>Apologies</b>	
3. <b>To receive any Declarations of Interest</b>	
You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.	
Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.	
You are also invited to disclose any dispensation from the requirement to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.	
4. <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2022</b>	<b>7 - 18</b>

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 5318.

<b><u>Agenda Item</u></b>	<b><u>Page(s)</u></b>
5. <b>Return of Councillor Elected - Camperdown Ward By-Election 14 July 2022</b>	
6. <b>Motions</b>	<b>19 - 24</b>
Five valid Motions on Notice, signed by at least three Members of the Council, have been received for consideration at this meeting.	
7. <b>Appointment of Independent Persons</b>	<b>25 - 30</b>
A report requesting full Council to re-appoint one current holder of the role of Independent Person and to appoint two new Independent Persons to that role for a period of four years.	
8. <b>Storm Arwen Task &amp; Finish Group report</b>	<b>31 - 48</b>
To receive the findings of the Storm Arwen Task and Finish group.	
9. <b>Appointment of Officer under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972</b>	<b>49 - 52</b>
To seek Council's approval, to appoint the Authority's Chief Finance Officer for the purposes of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.	
10. <b>Chair's Announcements</b>	
To receive any announcements by the Chair of Council.	
11. <b>Elected Mayor's Announcements</b>	
To receive any announcements by the Elected Mayor.	
12. <b>Questions by Members of the Council</b>	<b>53 - 54</b>
Two valid questions on notice have been received for a response at this meeting.	

**Yours faithfully**



**Chief Executive**

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 21 July 2022**

### **Title: Questions by Members of the Public**

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

#### **1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Laurie Zebik of Forest Hall**

Why is the SEND school provision in North Tyneside so incredibly low, especially nursery placements? There are 3 special schools in the Borough and the need is much higher. Why is more investment not being put into this? Our children deserve more than this. Their needs and education are currently not met. We as parents should not have the added stress and worry of finding a suitable school place in an already challenging and stressful situation. Our children and families are pushed aside constantly.

Also why is the 'local offer' predominantly charities? Why don't the council use more funding to offer support and activities for SEND children, adults and their families. It's extremely difficult to attend events to start with and the lack of accessibility and inclusion isolates us further. SEND families bottom of the pile again like we are worthless citizens. The Borough is appalling for support and opportunities. The council need to stop relying on good will and the work of charities and support all of their residents, not brush issues under the carpet.

#### **2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mark Lee of Wallsend**

Why is it that money seems to be there for 'areas of contemplation' paving, but apparently not for clearing paths from fallen and overhanging/leaning trees in WOODLAND PATHS IN RISING SUN COUNTRY PARK?

There is one woodland path in particular that has a tree decorated in memory of a loved one. It has been blocked off since storm Arwen. Locals are walking around the fallen trees, but it's not exactly safe as there are trees leaning against other trees, which in my opinion could fall at any time.

#### **3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Penny Remfry of Whitley Bay**

In order to meet the Council's 2030 zero net carbon target residents will have to reduce their domestic energy use considerably. What measures have the Council taken to provide the workforce and other support needed to enable residents to retrofit their homes in order to do this?

#### **4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Alan Steele of Tynemouth**

In 2019 the Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and last year brought their Carbon Net Zero target for the borough and authority forward to 2030. In pursuance of these targets the council committed to produce an updated 'Climate Emergency Action Plan' in 2022. What progress has been made on this, when will it be published and how will local residents and groups have an input into it?

What governance arrangements are the Council putting in place to oversee the implementation of the revised Action Plan?

#### **5. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ian Appleby of Cullercoats**

In response to bringing forward the net Carbon Zero Target for the borough to 2030 last year, the Council committed itself as part of its "Our North Tyneside Plan" to produce a renewed Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2022 detailing how it intended to achieve the target.

It is now half way through the year. What progress, if any, has been made on this, when will the Action Plan be published and how will local residents and groups have an input into it?

What governance arrangements, including the Climate Emergency Board's membership and meetings held to date, are the Council putting in place to oversee the implementation of the revised Action Plan and communicate this important work to the public in an open and transparent way?

#### **6. Question to the Elected Mayor from Andrew Macardle of Forest Hall**

Youth Services have been reduced significantly over recent years.

The Conservative Government's choice - and let us be clear that it was a choice - to adopt a policy of austerity has reduced funding over the last ten years. The pandemic meant that many surviving services were closed. We are now facing a cost-of-living crisis, meaning that many families are struggling to meet basic living expenses.

As a result, it is children and young people who are deprived of services and activities that previous generations had enjoyed.

There is a strong argument that the lack of opportunity, lack of structured environment - coupled with a desperation for a distraction from the current hardships - have led to a rise in anti-social behaviour, as we have seen on the metro, on our high streets and with fires started in a number of our parks and woodland across the Borough.

It is important to note that this is not to blame those anti social behaviours on young people, merely to highlight the link between lack of opportunities afforded and the space left for chaos.

In order to provide that opportunity, providing services for young people, what plans do North Tyneside Council have to invest in youth services - particularly services offered at no cost to families who are currently struggling.

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## Local Government Act 1972

### Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 19 May 2022

At the meeting of the Annual Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 19 May 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 P Oliver (in the Chair)  
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Arkley	Councillor K Barrie
Councillor G Bell	Councillor L Bell
Councillor L Bones	Councillor B Burdis
Councillor C Burdis	Councillor K Clark
Councillor D Cox	Councillor N Craven
Councillor J Cruddas	Councillor E Darke
Councillor C Davis	Councillor S Day
Councillor D Drummond	Councillor L Ferasin
Councillor M Fox	Councillor S Graham
Councillor M Green	Councillor M Hall
Councillor T Hallway	Councillor J Harrison
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor John Hunter
Councillor V Jamieson	Councillor H Johnson
Councillor C Johnson	Councillor C Johnston
Councillor J Kirwin	Councillor G Madden
Councillor L Marshall	Councillor P McIntyre
Councillor A McMullen	Councillor J Montague
Councillor J Mudzingwa	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor M Murphy	Councillor T Neira
Councillor A Newman	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor R O'Keefe	Councillor A Percy
Councillor E Parker-Leonard	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor P Richardson
Councillor M Rankin	Councillor O Scargill
Councillor W Samuel	Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor J Shaw	Councillor J Wallace
Councillor J Walker	Councillor G Westwater

**Apologies:** Councillor L Bartoli, Councillor F Lott, Councillor W Lott and Councillor M Wilson

C1/22

Election of Chair

The following nomination was received for the Office of Chair of the Council for the ensuing year:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Councillor P Oliver	Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor M Thirlaway

The nomination was approved by 48 votes to 0 votes.

**Resolved** that Councillor P Oliver be, and is hereby elected, Chair of the Council for the ensuing year and until the acceptance of Office by a successor.

### **C2/22 Declaration of Acceptance of Office - Chair**

The Chair made the formal declaration of acceptance of Office in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Councillor P Oliver in the Chair).

### **C3/22 Election of Deputy Chair**

The following nomination was received for the Office of Deputy Chair of the Council for the ensuing year:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor T Mulvenna	Councillor W Samuel

The nomination was approved by 48 votes to 0 votes.

**Resolved** that Councillor B Burdis be, and is hereby elected, Deputy Chair of the Council for the ensuing year and until the acceptance of Office by a successor.

### **C4/22 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Deputy Chair**

The Deputy Chair made the formal declaration of acceptance of Office in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **C5/22 Vote of thanks to retiring Chair**

A vote of thanks for the retiring Chair, Councillor D Drummond, was moved by Councillor N Craven and seconded by Councillor W Samuel.

In the position of Chair of Council, Councillor Drummond had been an effective Chairman that was firm but fair. During his time in office, he has demonstrated he had great pride in his role and this acknowledged his commitment to the community in North Tyneside. This had been evident with his support and participation to the Armed Forces, Holocaust and



Workers Memorials, in addition to his work supporting his charities SPARCS, a charity that provided a range of accessible and affordable activities for autistic people and those with related conditions and their families within the local community and the Cat and Dog Shelter

**C6/22            Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest reported.

**C7/22            Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 March 2022 be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**C8/22            Municipal Elections - 5 May 2022 - Return of Councillors**

The Council received the following return of Councillors elected on 5 May 2022.

<b>WARD</b>	<b>NAME</b>
Battle Hill	Steven Phillips
Benton	Josephine Mudzingwa
Camperdown	Lisa Ferasin
Chirton	Rebecca O'Keefe
Collingwood	Olly Scargill
Cullercoats	Willie Samuel
Howdon	Tricia Neira
Killingworth	Val Jamieson
Longbenton	Joan Walker
Monkseaton North	Joe Kirwin
Monkseaton South	Martin Murphy
Northumberland	Linda Bell
Preston	Cath Davis
Riverside	Bruce Pickard
St Mary's	Pam McIntyre
Tynemouth	Sarah Day
Valley	Brian Burdis
Wallsend	Louise Marshall
Weetslade	Michelle Fox
Whitley Bay	Margaret Hall

The Chair welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Members.

**C9/22 Address by the Elected Mayor including Cabinet Composition and Delegation Scheme**

The Cabinet would consist of 9 Councillors and the Elected Mayor, as shown below.

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	<b>Key Areas of Responsibility</b>
Norma Redfearn	Elected Mayor	Overall Strategic Policy Direction National and Regional Engagement Leadership within the North of Tyne Combined Authority Devolution Leadership of the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership Law and Democracy
Councillor Carl Johnson	Deputy Mayor	Delivery and presentation of Strategic Policy Direction Regeneration and Economic Development Corporate Strategy (including Customer Service) Planning and Strategic Transport Culture, Tourism and Events Delivery of the Investment Programme
Councillor Martin Rankin	Cabinet Member responsible for Finance and Resources	Finance, ICT and HR Audit, Assurance and Risk Asset and Property Management Procurement and Supply Chain (including the Capita and Equans Partnerships) Delivery of the Investment Programme
Councillor Anthony McMullen	Cabinet Member responsible for Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Carers Champion Older People's Champion
Councillor Hannah Johnson	Cabinet Member responsible for Inclusion, Employment and Skills	Inclusive Economy Strategy Equality and Diversity Strategy Employment and Skills
Councillor Karen Clark	Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy Public Health Tackling Socio-Economic Inequalities

Councillor John Harrison	Cabinet Member responsible for Housing	Housing Strategy Housing Management Housing Investment Affordable Homes Programme
Councillor Sandra Graham	Cabinet Member responsible for Environment	A Green North Tyneside Waste Management Environmental and Local Transport Services (including roads, pavements, parking, and the Capita Partnership) Cycling Champion Sport, Leisure and Libraries
Councillor Carole Burdis	Cabinet Member responsible for Community Safety and Public Protection	Community Safety and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Public Protection (including Capita Partnership) Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Community and Voluntary Sector
Councillor Steven Phillips	Cabinet Member responsible for Children, Young People and Learning	Education Safeguarding and Children's Services Young People's Champion

Details of the Mayor's proposed approach to managing executive decision making, which included her delegation scheme of executive decision making to Cabinet Members, were also circulated.

- a) approving the Authority's response to government consultation papers;
- b) approval of service specific plans;
- c) debt write off up to £50,000 in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates, Sundry Debts and Housing Benefit Overpayments (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance and Resources);
- d) to approve responses to regional strategies that impact on the Borough;
- e) to determine Traffic Regulation Orders where any objections are not withdrawn (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment and Transport);
- f) to consider any representations received in relation to the proposed construction of road humps and thereafter determine if road humps should be installed (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment and Transport);
- g) to consider any representations received in relation to proposals to establish a pedestrian crossing and thereafter determine if a pedestrian crossing should be established (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment and Transport);
- h) to approve any proposals directly related to the delivery of objectives in the approved Our North Tyneside Plan;
- i) to approve the Member Development Programme (Deputy Mayor);
- j) to consider any applications received for discretionary relief for Council Tax or Business Rates, considered only when exceptional circumstances apply, as set out in the Policy for the awarding of local taxation discretionary relief (Cabinet Member

- with responsibility for Finance and Resources);
- k) debt write off between £3,000 and £50,000 in respect of current and former Council house tenant arrears and write off of credit balances between £3,000 and £10,000 associated with untraceable former tenants (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing); and
  - l) to approve the appointment of representatives to serve on those outside bodies that exercise executive functions (Elected Mayor).

Executive decision making on other matters not listed above will, except in exceptional (urgent) circumstances, be taken by Cabinet collectively.

Any decisions taken by Cabinet Members will have to comply with many of the same good governance requirements that will apply to collective decision-making by Cabinet, namely:

- Publication on the Forward Plan
- Presentation of a written report to the Cabinet Member - the report to be in the same format as current Cabinet reports including reference to legal and financial implications background papers, etc.
- Publication of a record of the decision and availability for call in within specific deadlines.

#### **C10/22            Leaders of Political Groups**

1. It was reported that N Redfearn, Elected Mayor had been appointed as Leader of the Labour Group.
2. It was reported that Councillor G Westwater had been appointed as Leader of the Conservative Group.

#### **C11/22            Deputy Leaders of Political Groups**

1. It was reported that Councillor C Johnson had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group
2. It was reported that Councillor L Arkley had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

#### **C12/22            Annual Review of the Constitution**

The Council received a report on the annual review of the Constitution and associated documents undertaken by the Monitoring Officer.

The report contained recommendations on proposed amendments to the Authority's Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Co-opted Members ("the Code of Conduct") and Arrangements for Dealing with Allegations of Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members ("the Local Arrangements), Contract Standing Orders and Officer Delegation Scheme.

The annual review of the Constitution and associated documents ensured that they

continued to be fit for purpose and provided a framework that ensured the efficient discharge of the Authority's business by allowing for decision making at the appropriate level.

The Constitution Task Group had considered the proposed changes received for consideration as part of the latest annual review, and the changes had been approved by the Task Group.

The Constitution and associated documents would continue to be kept under review and updated to reflect any changes in the organisational structure of the Council or any legislative changes. The Council had previously authorised the monitoring officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Task Group, to make such changes when the power remained unaltered and these did not need to be reported to Council.

It was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor E Darke to:

approve the proposed changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 to the report and refer the approved changes to the Elected Mayor for her consent in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution, with the inclusion of the following additional amendments:

(a) In relation to Contract standing orders

Add the wording "in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member" to new section 21 (7) to read,

" (7) Any extension to a contract shall be agreed in writing by the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive or Directors of Service in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member."

(b) In relation to the Officer Delegation Scheme

- 1) That all delegations that were held by the Director of Law and Governance be held by the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2) That delegations EHL82 to EHL101 and EHL117 to EHL123 that related to Gambling, Alcohol and Sex Establishment Licensing be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, rather than the Director of Public Health.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 56 votes to 0 votes.

## **C13/22          Annual Appointments 2022/23**

The Council was requested to consider the appointment of committees and sub committees, Chairs and Deputy Chairs of those committees/sub committees, the allocation of seats to political groups on those committees/sub committees, the appointment of co-opted members on the Audit Committee and the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies that exercised non-executive functions for the 2022/23 Municipal year.

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

1. The following committees/sub committees be appointed for the 2021/22 municipal year on the basis of the number of seats indicated

<b>Committee/Sub-Committee</b>	<b>No of Seats</b>
Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	15
Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee	12
Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee	12
Culture and Leisure Sub Committee	12
Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	12
Environment Sub-Committee	12
Finance Sub-Committee	7
Housing Sub Committee	12
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7
Audit Committee	9 (7 elected/2 independent)
Licensing Committee	15
Planning Committee	11
Regulation and Review Committee	18
Standards Committee	9
Health and Well Being Board	See section 1.5.1.2

2. The allocation of seats on committees and sub committees, and also the Constitution Task Group and the Members Support Group, and the monitoring officer be informed of nominations of members to each by 12 noon on Friday 20 May 2022.

<b>Council Composition Committee</b>	<b>Total seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Overview and Scrutiny	15	13	2
Finance Sub Committee	7	6	1
Economic Prosperity Sub Committee	12	10	2
Adult, Social Care, Health and Well Being Sub Committee	12	10	2
Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee	12	10	2
Culture and Leisure Sub Committee	12	10	2
Environment Sub Committee	12	10	2
Housing Sub Committee	12	10	2
Audit Committee	7	6	1
Licensing Committee	15	13	2
Planning Committee	11	9	2
Regulation and Review Committee	18	15	3
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7	6	1

Standards Committee	9	8	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>25</b>

3. the following nomination of chairs and deputy chairs of committees/sub committees for the 2022/23 municipal year be approved:

Committee/Sub Committee	Chair	Deputy Chair
Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee	Janet Hunter	Margaret Hall
Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee	Joe Kirwin	Michelle Fox
Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee	Jim Montague	Rebecca O'Keefe
Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee	Julie Cruddas	Jane Shaw
Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	Matt Wilson	Joan Walker
Environment Sub-Committee	Davey Drummond	Martin Murphy
Finance Sub-Committee	Debbie Cox	Naomi Craven
Housing Sub-Committee	Andy Newman	Erin Parker-Leonard
Health and Wellbeing Board	Karen Clark	John O'Shea
Licensing Committee	Matthew Thirlaway	Wendy Lott
Planning Committee	Willie Samuel	Paul Richardson
Regulation and Review Committee	Tommy Mulvenna	John Hunter
Standards Committee	Frank Lott	Tracy Hallway

4. In accordance with the Authority's practice, the Elected Mayor is Chair of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee.
5. The Authority's Constitution requires that the two co-opted members of the Audit Committee shall fulfil the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee. Mr Kevin Robinson currently serves as Chair of the Committee, with Mr Malcolm Wilkinson serving as Deputy Chair.
6. In accordance with the Audit Committee's terms of reference, the terms of office of Mr Robinson and Mr Wilkinson are due to expire in September 2023. The appointment of co-opted members is a matter reserved to the full Council, on the

recommendation of the Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer if the post holder is other than the Chief Executive). It is considered that Mr Robinson and Mr Wilkinson are suitably skilled and experienced persons who are knowledgeable in audit matters and have enhanced the work of the Audit Committee since their initial appointment in September 2013. The Council is therefore requested to approve the appointment of Mr Robinson and Mr Wilkinson.

7. The Council is requested to note the appointment of Reverend Michael Vine as the Church of England Diocesan representative and Mr. Stephen Fallon as the Roman Catholic Diocesan representative on the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee. The Council is also requested to consider and determine whether or not it is appropriate to appoint any representative of other faiths/denominations to serve on the Committee.
8. The Council is requested to appoint representatives to serve on those outside bodies which do not exercise executive functions for the 2022/23 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

An amendment was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor C Johnston as follows:

Alternative nominations for Chairs and Deputy Chairs of committees/sub committees for the 2022/23 municipal year:

- i. Chair for Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee proposed Councillor Liam Bones and
- ii. Deputy Chair of Children, Education & Skills sub-committee proposed Councillor Christopher Johnston.

The amended Motion, on being put to the meeting, was defeated 48 votes to 3 votes.

The substantive motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 48 votes to 0 votes.

## **C14/22          Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny 2021/22**

The Council received the Annual Scrutiny Report that provided a summary of the work of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and its sub committees during 2021-22.

The Chair of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for 2021/22, Councillor Janet Hunter presented the report that highlighted the involvement of scrutiny in policy development and the achievements of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and its sub-committees through the various pieces of work undertaken during the year.

This included an on-going role in scrutinising the response of the local authority and partner agencies to the changing circumstances of the pandemic throughout the year and plans for the continued recovery and future development of services for North Tyneside residents.



Training from the Local Government Association had been provided to Scrutiny Chairs and Deputy Chairs, with additional local authority financial training being available to all members.

Scrutiny had also had involvement in the review of the Authority's Scrutiny processes conducted by the Centre of Public Governance to evaluate how to be more effective, make any improvements and follow good scrutiny practice. It was stated that once the report of the review was received, further training would be provided to scrutiny members to ensure they had the skills, knowledge and confidence to be a good critical friend.

Councillor Janet Hunter thanked the Elected Mayor, members, co-opted members, officers, and representatives of partner organisations for their support and contributions to the scrutiny process over the past year.

The Council received the report

### **C15/22          Annual Report of Standards Committee 2021/22**

Councillor Carl Johnson presented the Annual Report of Standards Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year.

The report set out the work undertaken by the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committee over the year.

The Committee had met on 3 occasions and dealt with a variety of matters which are detailed in the Work Programme for 2021/22 at Annex 1 to the report. In addition, the Standards Sub-committee met on 3 occasions.

Over the last year, the Standards Committee set up a working group to complete a review the Code of Conduct and the Local Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct. As a result, a revised Code of Conduct and Local Arrangements and were recommended to Council on the basis that they will ensure that good governance and ethical standards continue to reflect best practice.

The Committee would consider its work programme for 2022-23 at its first meeting of the new municipal year in June 2022.

The Annual Report was considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 7 April 2022.

Council received the report.

### **C16/22          Chair's Announcements (if any)**

The Chair thanked the Council for the privilege on being appointed Chair of Council and stated that she would do her best to be worthy of the role.

Once all arrangements had been finalised she would provide information to the charities that she intended to support in the coming year.

**C17/22 Mayor's Announcements (if any)**

The Elected Mayor expressed her delight of the news that following a recent inspection from Ofsted, Norham High School had been rated 'good' in all areas.

The Mayor stated that the rating was the result of major improvements that had been made at Norham High School over the past four years and that the school was once again a great place for local children to learn and thrive.

She praised the new Head Teacher, the staff, governors, parents and council staff for their work and commitment to providing the best possible education.

The Elected Mayor also congratulated the new Leader and Deputy Leader of the Conservative group and stated she looked forward to working with them in the coming year.

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 21 July 2022**

### **Title: Motions**

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

#### **Motion 1 signed by Councillor Matthew Thirlaway, Carl Johnson and Julie Cruddas**

North Tyneside Council believes that all NHS hospital staff should be entitled to free parking in hospital car parks. Over the last two years NHS hospital staff have rose to the challenge and helped defeat covid. The Conservative Government are happy to praise and clap for NHS hospital staff but fail to support them when it really matters.

The decision, by the Conservative Government, to rescind free parking for NHS hospital staff is a disgrace and is a dangerous message that they are unimportant now the pandemic is coming to an end. Our NHS hospital staff should be appreciated and supported at all times, not just during times of crisis.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care demanding the Government acts to ensure all NHS hospital staff are entitled to free parking in hospital car parks.

**Legal and Financial implications in relation to this Motion will be circulated prior to the meeting**

## **Motion 2 by Councillor Matthew Thirlaway, Willie Samuel and Carole Burdis**

### Conversion Therapy Ban

North Tyneside Council notes that there are already fourteen countries with some form of national ban on LGBT+ conversion therapy, as well as many other states, cities, and provinces. We also note that NHS England has stated that all forms of conversion therapy are unethical and potentially harmful.

We believe conversion therapy poses a danger to LGBT+ people and is an affront to human dignity. We are, therefore, dismayed that, despite committing to an LGBT+ conversion ban in 2018, the Conservative Government has persistently failed to legislate such a ban and have subsequently placed LGBT+ people at significant risk of harm.

We are equally dismayed that the Conservative Government's proposed conversion therapy ban does not include gender identity and believe that any ban must protect trans and non-binary people.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to the Prime Minister asking him to finally prioritise and legislate a conversion therapy ban that includes gender identity.

**Legal and Financial implications in relation to this Motion will be circulated prior to the meeting**

### **Motion 3 by Councillor Carl Johnson, Andy Newman and Martin Rankin**

Honesty, integrity, and respect matter in politics.

In the previous two election cycles we've seen acts of dishonesty, deception, and often a lack of respect shown to fellow candidates.

This Council therefore calls upon the Elected Mayor to write to all political parties who stood candidates in the 2022 local elections in North Tyneside calling on them to pledge

to;

- To always make it clear on election literature which party it is from
- To not abbreviate the name of your political party on an imprint
- To not impersonate local media to use as a party-political platform
- To always ensure postal vote sign-ups are sent direct to the council
- To make clear on any social media account which political party is behind it
- To treat other candidates with respect
- To not impersonate another political party on literature
- To uphold the highest standards of integrity which the public expect from us

**Legal and Financial implications in relation to this Motion will be circulated prior to the meeting**

**Motion 4 by Councillor Carl Johnson, Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn and Eddie Darke**

North Tyneside council thanks former Councillor Jim Allan for his many years of service to the council. Jim was a Councillor over 30 years representing Wallsend, Valley, and the Camperdown wards during his time. He held many positions within the council over the years including Deputy Mayor and Leader of the Labour Group while in opposition. We wish Jim the best of health for the future.

**Legal and Financial implications in relation to this Motion will be circulated prior to the meeting**

## **Motion 5 by Councillor Olly Scargill, Liam Bones and Lewis Bartoli**

North Tyneside Council notes:

- The Dutch-style roundabout at Rake Lane has caused significant disruption over the last few months to local residents
- The total cost of the scheme was £1.5 million

North Tyneside Council believes:

- £1.5 million could, and should, have been spent on alternative proposals for active travel

North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to:

- Reassure residents that every roundabout in North Tyneside will not become a Dutch-style roundabout
- Ensure all future cycling schemes have the support of local residents by putting them to a local referendum

**Legal and Financial implications in relation to this Motion will be circulated prior to the meeting**

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## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 21 July 2022

### Title: Appointment of Independent Persons

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Elected Mayor	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Mrs N Redfearn, the Elected Mayor
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	<b>Law and Governance</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Jacqueline Laughton Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
	<b>Tel: (0191) 643 5724</b>

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected and co-opted members. The Act requires the Authority to have local arrangements to handle any misconduct complaints including the appointment of Independent Persons. This report requests full Council to re-appoint one current holder of the role of Independent Person and to appoint two new Independent Persons to that role for a period of four years.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- a) appoint Dr Stuart Green, Mrs Kerry Roffe and Mr Daniel John Entwisle as the Authority's Independent Persons pursuant to the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 for a period of four years to 31 July 2026.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 14 April 2022.

##### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not align directly to any of the priorities in the Council Plan. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 the Authority has a statutory duty to promote robust governance arrangements.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

- 1.5.2 The terms of office of the Authority's current Independent Persons Mr George Clark, Ms Stella Gardner, and Dr Stuart Green end on 31 July 2022. Mr Clark and Ms Gardner have held the position of Independent Person for 10 years and in accordance with the decision taken by full Council on 26 July 2018 to implement, as a matter of best practice, a maximum ten-year term of office for an Independent Person, they are no longer eligible to be Independent Persons for the Authority. The decision to implement a fixed term of appointment for Independent Persons was considered appropriate to ensure that the element of independence, which is essential for the role of Independent Person, is maintained.
- 1.5.3 Throughout their appointments Mr Clark, Ms Gardner and Dr Green have provided advice to the Monitoring Officer, the Standards Committee and Standards Sub-Committee in relation to the operation of the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members and in particular specific complaints received by the Authority.
- 1.5.4 The functions of the Independent Person(s) are that he or she:
- must be consulted and their views taken into account before the Authority takes a decision on any allegation made against an elected member which has been investigated;
  - may be consulted about any other aspect of a Councillor's alleged breach of the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members; or
  - may be consulted by a Councillor against whom such an allegation has been made.
- 1.5.5 In addition, under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, as amended, the Authority is required to appoint its Independent Persons to its Dismissal Advisory Committee to assist the Authority to carry out its duties under the 2001 Regulations in relation to the Authority's procedures for the discipline and (where necessary) the dismissal of its Statutory Officers.
- 1.5.6 Candidates are expected to have high standards of personal conduct, tact and discretion and ideally some knowledge of local government at principal authority level. Training is given and a modest allowance of £1,061 per annum paid.
- 1.5.7 The law prevents a close friend or relative of any member, co-opted member or officer of the Authority concerned from applying.
- 1.5.8 On 26 July 2018 full Council also agreed to the number of Independent Persons being increased from two to three. This was to allow for greater flexibility and to minimise the potential for any conflict of interest where:
- a) an Independent Person has, for example, been involved in an initial assessment decision and the complainant seeks a review of that decision; or
  - b) a member who is the subject of a complaint has contacted an Independent Person for support and that matter proceeds to a final hearing at which the Independent Persons are requested to give advice and support to the Standards Committee.

- 1.5.9 The selection pane identified three suitable candidates : one of the Authority’s current Independent Persons, Dr Stuart Green; Mrs Kerry Roffe and Mr Daniel John Entwisle.
- 1.5.10 Members will be aware of Dr Green’s has considerable experience of local government standards matters. Mr Entwisle is also familiar with local authority governance and decision-making from his experience as a broadcaster and journalist whilst Mrs Roffe has experience of dealing with complex complaints during her employment with HM Revenue and Customs.
- 1.5.11 It is proposed that Dr Green, Mrs Roffe and Mr Entwisle be appointed to the roles of Independent Person for an initial period of four years until 31 July 2026.

## **1.5 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

### Option 1

To approve the recommendation at paragraph 1.2 of the report.

### Option 2

To not approve the recommendation at 1.2 of the report and request officers to undertake further work with respect to the appointment of Independent Persons.

## **1.6 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended as it supports the Authority statutory duty to promote ethical standards and provides the benefits as set out in the report.

## **1.7 Appendix:**

Appendix 1 – Local Arrangements for Dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members

## **1.8 Contact officers:**

Jacqueline Laughton - Monitoring Officer	Tel 0191 643 5339
John Barton – Deputy Monitoring Officer:	Tel 0191 6435354
Claire Emmerson - Senior Manager, Financial Strategy and Planning	Tel 0191 643 8109

## **1.9 Background information:**

The following background information has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

Council Report on Appointment of Independent Persons dated 26 July 2018  
The Localism Act 2011  
The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001

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

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

The allowance to be paid to the Independent Persons has been determined by Council and currently stands at £1,061 per annum per Independent Person.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected and co-opted members and to appoint Independent Persons. Section 28 of the 2011 Act also requires the Authority to appoint at least one Independent Person to provide advice and support to the Authority in relation to the operation of the Code of Conduct for Members and ethical governance.

In addition, under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, the Authority is required to appoint its Independent Persons to its Dismissal Advisory Committee to assist the Authority to carry out its duties under the 2001 Regulations in relation to the Authority's procedures for the discipline and (where necessary) the dismissal of its Statutory Officers.

The appointment of Independent Persons in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 is a matter for full Council.

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

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Elected Mayor, and other Group Leader representatives.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

An advertisement seeking applications for the role was placed on the North East Jobs recruitment portal and the Authority's Website.

### **2.4 Human rights**

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

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

The recruitment exercise was conducted in accordance with the Authority's recruitment arrangements in relation to equality and diversity.

### **2.6 Risk management**

There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

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

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

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

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Director of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Assistant Chief Executive  X

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## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 21 July 2022

### Title: Storm Arwen Task & Finish Group Report

<b>Portfolio(s):</b>	<b>Community Safety and Public Protection</b>	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	<b>Councillor C Burdis</b>
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	Chief Executive		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Paul Hanson, Chief Executive	<b>Tel: (0191) 643 7001</b>	
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

At its meeting on 20 January 2022 Council debated a Motion in relation to Storm Arwen. The Motion requested the Elected Mayor to launch a cross party inquiry into the handling of Storm Arwen by the Authority, including what work is outstanding and what lessons can be learned, and report back to full Council. Following the Council meeting, the Elected Mayor wrote to the Chair of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee requesting that a review be undertaken through the establishment of a Task and Finish group. This was agreed by the Chair of OS&PD. The report sets out the findings of this work for Council to note

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

Notes the findings of the Storm Arwen Task and Finish group and agrees to refer the report to Cabinet for its consideration.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 17 June 2022.

##### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to all themes in the 2022/25 Our North Tyneside Plan.

##### 1.5 Information:

###### 1.5.1 Background

At its meeting 20 January 2022 Council debated a Motion in relation to Storm Arwen. (see Appendix 2 of the report of the task and finish group).

Following debate it was agreed that the Elected Mayor would;

- “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”.
- “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 Elected Mayor requested that a review be undertaken by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee (OS&PD). It was agreed that OS&PD would establish a Task and Finish group (“the Group”) to review Storm Arwen. In drawing up the Group’s terms of reference it was agreed that it would be appropriate for other named storms that occurred after Storm Arwen up to February 2022 to be included in the report.

The approach and Terms of Reference for the review was presented and agreed by the OS&PD Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2022.

All non-executive members were canvassed to be part of the Group, and 8 members took up the opportunity to be involved. The agreed approach for the review was through two focussed sessions, which took place on 16 and 23 May 2022.

- 1.5.2 The Group was supported by a team of officers who had key positions of responsibility during any emergency events, including severe weather.

The Group received extensive information to each storm event, which included

- The background and the Authority’s response
- Command and control arrangements
- Timeline of events
- Summary of the impacts of each storm
- Communication activity
- Impact and work undertaken by Authority service areas

- 1.5.3 The conclusion of the Group’s very comprehensive review was that resilience and emergency planning practice constantly evolves through experience. Through its review the Group has made a number of recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

- 1.5.4 The Group also recognised the significant work that took place during the storms - by individuals, neighbours, communities, responders, voluntary groups, businesses, and others who came out in very challenging conditions to provide help to those in need.

The Group concluded that the Authority was able to rapidly mobilise staff with the necessary specialist technical skillsets to support the range of requirements needed to keep residents and property safe.

The Group’s view was that the activation and effective mobilisation reduced possible further impact to residents/businesses within the borough and all staff involved throughout all the storm events worked tirelessly and should be commended.

## 1.6 Decision options:



The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

To approve the recommendation as set out in paragraph 1.2 above

Option 2

To not approve the recommendation as set out in paragraph 1.2 above

Option 1 is the recommended option.

**1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

Cabinet is appropriate to consider the findings and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group, Cabinet has the responsibility to implement any changes to the Authority's Emergency Planning arrangements.

**1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix: Storm Arwen Task & Finish Group Report, Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee – 13 June 2022

**1.9 Contact officers:**

Jackie Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive, tel. (0191) 643 7075

Paul Wheeler, Democratic Services Officer, tel (0191) 643 5318

**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:

- (1) The Authority's Emergency Planning obligations with weather events
- (2) Storm Arwen
- (3) Storms Barra, Malik, Corrie, Dudley and Eunice
- (4) Lessons Learned

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

**2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications at this stage.

**2.2 Legal**

The recommendations contained in the report relate to matters that are for Cabinet to consider.

**2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### 2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Task and Finish Group were presented comprehensive information from lead officers within the Authority holding key positions of responsibility during any emergency events.

### 2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There was no external consultation/engagement.

## 2.4 Human rights

There are no direct issues relating to human rights arising from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

Given that the importance of communication, due regard should be given to the communication needs of all part of the community including those with sensory impairments and those with learning disabilities.

## 2.6 Risk management

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct issues relating to crime and disorder arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct issues relating to environment and sustainability arising from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive  X
- Director(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Assistant Chief Executive  X

# Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

**Date:** 13 June 2022

**Title:** Storm Arwen Task & Finish Group Report

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**Author:** Paul Wheeler Tel: 0191 643 5318  
**Service:** Democratic Services Officer  
**Wards affected:** All

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## 1. Purpose of Report

At its meeting 20 January 2022 Council debated a Motion in relation to Storm Arwen and raised concerns with the way the emergency had been handled nationally and requested the Elected Mayor to request that Government provided funding to aid the recovery in North Tyneside and is appended at Appendix1.

Following debate an amendment to the motion was put to Council to where it requested the Elected Mayor to;

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 was agreed and is appended at Appendix 2.

Following the Council meeting, the Elected Mayor wrote to the Chair of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee (OS&PD) requesting that a review be undertaken through the establishment of a Task and Finish Group, which was agreed by the Chair (OS&PD).

The Terms of Reference for the review were agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 14 March 2022. The Terms of Reference can be found at Appendix 3.

The approach for the review was through two focussed sessions being agreed in advance between the Chair and Officer Team.

This report details the findings of the review.

## 2. Recommendations

That the recommendations detailed in section10 of this report be noted and forwarded to Council for consideration.

### **3. Membership**

The Committee established the Storm Arwen & Winter Storms Task & Finish Group.

Continuing the policy to encourage cross party/committee involvement, an invitation was made to all Non-Executive Members of the Council to be part of the Task & Finish group.

The following members volunteered to serve and took some part:

Councillor Liam Bones  
Councillor Brian Burdis  
Councillor Cath Davis  
Councillor Muriel Green  
Councillor Tracy Hallway  
Councillor Janet Hunter  
Councillor John O'Shea  
Councillor Paul Richardson

The Task & Finish group met on 2 occasions.

### **4. Statutory Duties –Emergency Planning obligations**

Statutory responsibilities to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to manage emergencies are set out in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

These define a core set of agencies as responsible for emergency planning and response. 'Category 1' responders to civil emergency, who have the greatest number of duties, are the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, NHS local authorities, Community and Voluntary (represented by British Red Cross) and the Environment Agency.

The list of 'Category 2' responders to civil emergency, who also have a range of legal duties to cooperate and share information, include organisations involved in the energy, telecoms, transport, and water sectors.

Following an emergency, these organisations work together and form a 'resilience partnership', which helps them to coordinate, collaborate and share information.

Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) covering police force areas are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives of the local category one and two responders, plus the military. They are responsible for identifying and planning for local civil resilience risks.

A key principle of resilience partnerships is to have the right people in the right place at the right time. Whilst legislation guides statutory representation, the third sector also has an important play a part in the cycle of emergency management and are often part of the resilience partnership structures.

### **5. Local Response**

The operational response to major incidents, such as Storm Arwen, is coordinated at the local level through Strategic Coordinating Groups or Tactical Coordination Groups which

are the response mechanisms of Local Resilience Forums in England and Wales in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Blue light services, Local Authorities, Utilities, welfare partners and other relevant organisations take part in regular meetings at tactical and strategic levels to direct and prioritise resources and identify further risks throughout the response.

Local Resilience Forums and Partnerships are responsible for the civil contingencies' response to any incident in their geographic area. Partnerships and the Local Authority maintain regular engagement with one another throughout the year on contingency plans, which they also exercise regularly in accordance with their duty to prepare for emergencies under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004).

## **6. National Protocol**

In Major Emergency situations the Joint Emergency Service Incident Protocol (JESIP) should be followed;

- Co-locate - Co-locate with other responders as soon as practicably possible at a single, safe and easily identified location.
- Communicate - Communicate using language which is clear and free from technical jargon and abbreviations.
- Co-ordinate.
- Jointly understand risk.
- Shared Situational Awareness.

There is an established reporting framework that provides a common structure for responders and their control rooms to share major incident information, this is called the METHANE model.

The Authority in operating its Emergency Planning is fully aligned and follows this national approach, with all involved trained.

## **7. Emergency Planning – North Tyneside**

North Tyneside Council is responsible for areas of Emergency Planning, Business Continuity and responding to the effect of the weather.

In its Emergency Planning it ensures that those involved are suitably senior, trained, exercised. It has an Emergency Response Leadership Group and there is a Rota to ensure Gold Command and Emergency Response Officer availability/accessibility.

When an emergency occurs the following all needs consideration:

- Incident
- Scale and geography
- Command structure
- Priorities
- Partners
- Recovery

- All influenced by the nature of the incident or event

## **8. The Weather: Storm Arwen 2021 – context**

There were 7 named storms during the 2021/22 winter season, the first was Storm Arwen which occurred on the 26 – 27 November 2021 and ended with Storm Franklin on 20 February 2022.

Storm Arwen brought significant and widespread severe weather to parts of the UK, including exceptionally high windspeeds, icy conditions, and deep snow.

The Authority conducts its forecasting with regards to monitoring the changes and impact of the weather that include:

- Meteo Group Weather Forecast
- Action Forecast for Winter Maintenance
- Met Office Forecast
- Weather Station

Yellow wind warnings were initially issued by the Met Office, on 23 November and the authority services with response roles monitored the situation. The first amber warnings, indicating a risk to life, damage to trees and buildings, and likely power, transport, and communications disruption, were issued on 25 November, when services and responsible roles began making standby arrangements.

At 10.56 hours on the 26 November 2021 the amber warnings were reinforced by a rare red warning for exceptional wind speeds down the east coast of Scotland and northern England.

Storm Arwen was an exceptionally severe storm, not without precedent in recent decades, but with features that made it more unusual.

A significant feature of Storm Arwen was the direction of the winds it generated. The wind generally comes from a southerly to north westerly direction. Storm Arwen brought very high winds from a north to north-easterly direction into areas of the country that are usually sheltered. A severe gale with a northerly wind direction, as seen in Storm Arwen, occurs roughly one day in every eight years, with Met Office records showing the last storm of comparable magnitude and similarity occurring in January 1953.

The windspeeds in the north-east were exceptional for the area, exceeding 92mph for several hours in exposed locations and peaking at 98mph, the strongest in this area since 1984.

North Tyneside experienced the impact of six of the named storms in 11 weeks during the 2021/22 winter season, Arwen, Barra, Malik, Corrie, Dudley and Eunice.

## **9. Response to the Storms**

The group were provided with comprehensive information on the Authority's Emergency Planning obligations in relation to weather events, the extent of the storms and how the

authority prepared, communicated, co-ordinated response activity for each storm, which included identified good practice and what lessons had been learned.

Many Authority service areas receive calls/reports of incidents, these included areas for Environment, Building Control, Highways, Housing and Property Services, Commissioning and Asset Management and Social Care.

Hundreds of residents in North Tyneside, some of whom were vulnerable were affected by power cuts during Storm Arwen similar to many communities in the North East, this was due to the failure of Northern Power Grid to cope with the size of demand. The Authority's priority was always to prioritise welfare and safety over other activities.

The Task Group acknowledged that the primary priority in any emergency event should and will always be to ensure the safety of life.

In respect only to Storm Arwen, the size of the response was significant, with the following results:

- Door-knocked over **1,000 homes** to identify those without power and provide help to our residents where they needed it
- Identified around **70 people** with social care needs who were without power and made direct contact with them
- Made safe over **100** potentially dangerous structures
- Identified over **400** trees that had fallen, quickly assessing their priority for making safe
- Handled over **5,000** customer contacts (mainly calls but emails too) from residents looking to report damage, report vulnerabilities or to seek general advice from us
- Identified over **800** issues relating to roofs and fencing within our council homes
- **Implemented temporary road closures** to keep people safe from fallen trees, masonry, or other debris
- **Kept the borough** updated via our website, social media and direct messaging to elected members
- Involved around **100** of our staff (and those from our partners) over that weekend.

## 10. Response Activity - Recommendations

### Dealing with Trees

Significant reports and incidents in relation to trees were reported over the weekend of Storm Arwen.

The Authority operates two tree teams each with 4 staff members, and these were supplemented with suitably trained staff from ground maintenance and in response the authority deployed 3 tree teams on the Friday and Saturday, with 1 team on the Sunday (providing respite for staff undertaking this demanding activity).

Activity was carried out to inspect and used an established a priority system, this was based on a traffic-light (RAG) rating:

- **Red** – council trees fallen onto properties or where there is clear health and safety concern or danger to life.
- **Amber** – trees on road and pavements (where blocking access to right of way)

- **Green** – trees/branches which have fallen and do not fall into the above categories  
e.g. tree on green space

It was noted and agreed that the use of the traffic light priority system using RAG Rating when dealing with trees was wholly appropriate.

### **Reporting incidents online/telephone etc**

It was recognised that there were a diverse number of ways that incidents were being received throughout all storm events and that there was a need to consider how the management of incoming incident communications could be improved.

### **Recommendation**

**To have consideration to undertake to establish a streamlined mechanism to receive and collate information.**

### **Replacement of trees**

It was recognised that the authority had redirected teams from Environmental Services and appointed an arboriculture contractor to assist the tree team with aid for the clearance of trees.

It was also recognised that consultation was being conducted with residents with regards to tree replacement requests in line with the Authority Tree Policy.

When replacing storm damaged trees, there should be consideration to ensure if like for like replacement is appropriate. The group agreed that any newly planted tree should be appropriate for the location and future environment.

### **The replacement of roofs/fencing**

It was recognised that repairs would be conducted in accordance with the urgency for repair, with each being assessed for risk and managed appropriately.

It was felt that residents and the wider public should be provided with a realistic timescale of when the outstanding works would be completed. This would be dependent on the availability of resources to carry out the works.

### **Communication with the North Tyneside Community**

The group heard that communication had taken place with all Council tenants in relation to concerns with their homes.

However, it was raised that communication of the progress of recovery was of interest to all the whole of the North Tyneside community and to do this would demonstrate the Authority was continually working towards full recovery.

### **Continued Recovery**

There was a clear understanding that the Authority would carry out its statutory duty to carry out all recovery works.



However, there was a required need to ensure there was a clear understanding to elected members and the public that all recovery work would be prioritised and actioned according to risk and resource availability.

## **Communication**

Public communications were a vital element of the response to Storm Arwen and ensured that as many individuals as possible were aware of the warnings and could take appropriate action. Coordination structures were quickly activated, and the Authority used a range of channels to keep responders, members and the public updated.

The group were informed that the Authority operates online forms for residents to report issues, with appropriate reference number being provided for housing repairs and members enquiries. However, it heard there are a diverse range of methods through which the Authority receives issues, many of which come via social media. There was a recognition that monitoring social media platforms would need to be implemented for receiving issues reporting during major events. An additional concern was that customers may report the same incident/issue on different platforms.

## **Recommendation**

**That consideration be given to review and promote comprehensively the best ways the Authority can receive the reporting of incident/issues, with the generation of a reference number where possible that would provide the customer reassurance that their concern has been logged and is traceable.**

In relation to the communication with elected members during the winter storm period, communication was regarded as good and effective, with members receiving regular updates via email.

There was recognition that the role of the elected member during emergency events is an asset for the community, through their knowledge and community representation. The elected member can provide clear communication and reassurance to their communities.

On reflection the group thought moving forward, that members should have a direct link to an operational officer, which would allow immediate damage reports being logged.

However, it should be noted that when emergency events occur, elected members should always be aware not to independently action activity as there is a need for response continuity through the initiated actions of the Authority services.

## **Recommendation**

**Consideration should be given to explore alternative methods to communicate with elected members, with the proposal to look at using one secure channel to disseminate information to Members.**

In its communication with the community, it is paramount to ensure that there is a clear narrative that the Authority is progressing the recovery, however it was emphasised that there required a degree of understanding to the expectation of recovery completion. This would require regular updates to the whole community of the progress of the recovery, not just to those directly affected.

The group was informed that the Authority would continue its openness and accessibility in engaging with the national and local media which aided communication during the winter storms.

In relation to how the Authority ensured its communities were kept abreast of the effects of the winter storms, the group commended the Authority for collaborating with local and national media outlets. The group heard that the Authority officers were available for interview by BBC radio and local TV news, which also showed the work being undertaken by staff.

### **Financial Cost**

The financial cost to the authority as a result of the storms was £0.75m which increased to £1m when incorporating the cost of the additional staff required and was financed through the Authority's insurance reserve.

The group was reassured that the Authority had the correct risk and financial management policies in place to enable it to react appropriate to emergency events of this nature.

### **Future Planning**

The group was informed of the number of policies and plans the Authority has that relate to the weather events, these being:

- Winter Maintenance Policy
- Flood Risk Policy
- Cold Weather Plan
- Heatwave Plan

The group considered there was a need to explore how the experience of the winter storms affected communities, with the expectation that events of this nature would increase because of the effects of climate change.

### **Recommendation**

**That consideration be given to explore the development of future policies or enhancing existing policies to deal with the projected increase in events of this nature.**

## **11. Conclusion**

By its very nature, resilience and emergency planning practice constantly evolves through experience. This report sought to review how the Authority conducted itself during the storms that occurred during the winter of 2021/22. It is hoped that sharing key themes will support the building of resilience in the future.

The group would like to recognise and express its thanks for the significant work that took place during the Storms - by individuals, neighbours, communities, responders, voluntary groups, businesses, and others who came out in very challenging conditions to provide help to those in need.

The Authority was able to rapidly mobilise staff with the necessary specialist technical skillset to support the range of requirements needed to keep residents and property safe.

It was the view of the group that this activation and effective mobilisation reduced possible further impacts to residents/business within the borough and all staff involved throughout all the storm events worked tirelessly and should be commended.

## **12. Acknowledgments**

Paul Hanson – Chief Executive

Jacqueline Laughton – Assistant Chief Executive

Samantha Dand - Director of Environment

Mark Longstaff - Director of Commissioning and Asset Management

Colin MacDonald - Head of Technical and Regulatory Services

Harry Wearing - Communications and Marketing Manager

## **13. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author

Briefing documentation and presentations in relation to:

The Authority's Emergency Planning obligations with weather events

Storm Arwen

Storms Barra, Malik and Corrie and Storms Dudley and Eunice

Lessons Learned

## Original Motion

### Storm Arwen

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.

## Agreed Motion

### Storm Arwen

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.
- 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 Council Thursday, 20 January 2022 which has now been pushed even further back.

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.
- 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.

**Meeting:** Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

**Date:** 17 March 2022

**Title:** **Response to Storm Arwen, Malik, Barra and Corrie**

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**Author:** Paul Hanson, Chief Executive

**Service:**

**Wards affected:** All

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#### 14. Purpose of Report

The Elected Mayor has asked the Chair of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to consider a Task and Finish Review of the preparations for and response to, Storm Arwen with the intention of learning any lessons for future practice.

#### 15. Introduction

Since Storm Arwen the Borough has experienced Storm Malik, Storm Barra and Storm Corrie. The Mayor extended her request to include consideration of all.

The scope of the requested study is suggested as follows

- North Tyneside Council's responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act and how they are discharged
- How the Authority responds to Weather Warnings and prepares for Weather Events
- How the Authority prepared for Storms Arwen, Malik, Barra and Corrie
- How the Authority responded to Storms Arwen, Malik, Barra and Corrie including a timeline of events
- How the Authority communicated with Members, Residents and Communities during the storms; and
- What lessons were learned and good practice identified.

#### 16. Details

Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee will establish a Tasks and Finish Group to

- Consider the preparations made to respond to Storms Arwen, Malik, Barra and Corrie
- Consider the response to the storms; and
- Identify any lessons learned and good practice which can be applied during future incidents.

The Task and Finish Group may wish to do this work as follows

- Briefing from the Officer Team responsible for Emergency Planning
- Briefing and materials from the Officer Team who managed the response; and
- A visit to the team to look at the work they do to manage trees in the Borough

#### **4. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

#### **5. Appendices**

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## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 21 July 2022

### Title: Appointment of Officer under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Finance and Resources	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Councillor Martin Rankin
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**Report from Chief Executive:**

**Responsible Officer:** Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer  
Tel: (0191) 643 5724

**Wards affected:** All

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

The Authority has a duty under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its Officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.

The Authority's current Director of Resources, Janice Gillespie, who is also the Authority's Chief Finance Officer duly appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 is to change job role on 7 August 2022. Jon Ritchie has been appointed by the Authority to be the Director of Resources and he is to take up that role on 8 August 2022. Mr Ritchie will also, subject to Council's approval, become the Authority's Chief Finance Officer for the purposes of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 on that date.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) appoint Jon Ritchie to be the Authority's Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer with effect from 8 August 2022.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

It has not been practicable to give twenty eight days notice of this report. However, it is required to be considered without the twenty eight days notice being given because of the need to ensure continuity of the appointment to the role of Chief Finance officer for the purposes of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority(ies) in the 2020/24 Our North Tyneside Plan:

This report does not directly align to the priorities in the Council Plan. The Authority has a statutory duty to appoint an officer to be responsible for the administration of the Authority's financial affairs.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 As stated, the Authority has a duty to appoint a statutory chief officer having responsibility, for the purposes of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the administration of the Authority's financial affairs.

1.5.3 Article 12 of the Authority's Constitution sets out the responsibilities of the three key statutory officers including the Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer. The responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer are: -

- Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making
- Administration of financial affairs.
- Contributing to corporate management
- Providing advice
- Giving financial information.

1.5.4 On and after their appointment as the Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer that officer must, in accordance with section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 be a member of one or more prescribed accountancy bodies. Jon Ritchie is suitably qualified to be appointed Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer.

1.5.5 Following a recruitment process, the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee appointed Mr Ritchie as Director of Resources in May 2022. This role includes the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer. Subject to his appointment, he will be expected to appoint at least one suitably qualified Deputy Section 151 Officer to act in his absence.

## 1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

### Option 1

To adopt the recommendation in section 1.2 of the report and to make the appointment.

### Option 2

Not to adopt the recommendation in section 1.2 of the report and not to make the appointment

Option 1 is the recommended option.

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

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

Jon Ritchie possesses the necessary experience, expertise and professional qualifications to undertake the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer and it is recommended that Council appoints him to that role.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer (0191) 643 5724  
John Barton, Principal Lawyer (0191 6435354)  
Claire Emmerson, Senior Manager Financial Strategy and Planning (0191) 643 8109

## **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:

- (1) Local Government Act 1972
- (2) Local Government Finance Act 1988
- (3) The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000

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

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

There are financial implications arising from this report. Budget provision is in place for this role.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Legal implications flowing from this report are dealt with in the body of the report.

The appointment of the Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer is a matter for full Council in accordance with The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

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

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The Cabinet and the Senior Management Team have been made aware of the appointment of Jon Ritchie and subject to Council' approval to him being appointed the Authority's Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

None.

## 2.4 Human rights

There are no equality and diversity implications from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications from this report.

## 2.6 Risk management

The Authority has a statutory obligation to appoint a Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. A failure to make such an appointment will mean that the Authority is not complying with that requirement.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime or disorder implication flowing from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive  X
- Director(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Assistant Chief Executive  X

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 21 July 2022**

### **Title: Questions by Members of the Council**

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

#### **1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Linda Arkley**

Is the Elected Mayor looking at the high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour in Cullercoats? As a matter of urgency will she meet with me to discuss the steps to be taken, to ensure the safety of residents and visitors?

#### **2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor George Westwater**

Anti-Social Behaviour seems to be an increasing problem across the Borough. Can the Elected Mayor confirm that all possible steps are being taken, working with other public bodies, to combat the problem and what new measures are being implemented?

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