



# Council

**North Tyneside Council**

**To All Members of the Council**

Wednesday, 11 January 2023

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, 19 January 2023** for the transaction of the following business.

| <u>Agenda Item</u>  | <u>Page(s)</u> |
|---|----------------|
| <b>1. Public Questions</b>  | <b>3 - 6</b>   |
| Seven valid question has been received from a member of the public for this meeting.  |                |
| <b>2. Apologies</b>   |                |
| <b>3. 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. |                |

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> |
|---|-----------------------|
| 4. <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022</b>   | <b>7 - 18</b>         |
| 5. <b>Motions</b><br><br>Five valid Motions on Notice, signed by at least three Members of the Council, have been received for consideration at this meeting. | <b>19 - 24</b>        |
| 6. <b>Timetable of Meetings 2023/24</b><br><br>To consider a draft programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year.                | <b>25 - 30</b>        |
| 7. <b>Chair's Announcements</b><br><br>To receive any announcements by the Chair of Council.  |                       |
| 8. <b>Elected Mayor's Announcements</b><br><br>To receive any announcements by the Elected Mayor.   |                       |
| 9. <b>Questions by Members of the Council</b><br><br>One valid questions on notice have been received for a response at this meeting.                         | <b>31 - 32</b>        |

**Yours faithfully**



**Chief Executive**

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 19 January 2023**

### **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 Mr Turner of Wallsend**

Please can I ask why there seems to be less investment in Wallsend aimed at footfall increase

There has been a mention of artwork relating to Segedunum & new shop fronts for those that have aged

But primarily there already is not enough footfall in and around Wallsend it's merely became like ghost town

Yet I know personally when we have arranged events or I have been part of events in Wallsend that people come out in great numbers

So surely some of the allocated finance needs to be aimed more at holding more events ie a music concert in Wallsend park would be an ideal event which can be done with relative ease I'm sure or maybe something similar at Segedunum fort

Please can we find a way to hold discussions with someone who may be able to make such ideas a reality and in turn bring Wallsend back to life

#### **2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Thorn of Monkseaton**

I am very interested to understand why, since March 2020, very little if no work has been done to ensure that road signs in the Borough are clear from the foliage or overgrowth of nearby trees and bushes?

The situation is frankly ridiculous and, in my opinion, will lead to a serious incident with potential harm to person(s) as a direct result. It is particularly noticeable on the approaches at Holystone roundabout.

### **3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Cadman of North Shields**

A number of Ash trees around the region have been removed from residential streets after suffering from Ash Dieback. The current NTC tree policy is to replace each removed tree with at least one other.

What is the action plan to assess and remove Ash trees in the region and when will replacement trees be re-instated to the residential streets in their place?

### **4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mrs Harrison of North Shields**

My question is in regard to disability accessibility in my vicinity.

I use a mobility scooter which is invaluable, but being able to get around my area is a challenge. A lot of streets don't have disability pavement slopes which means having to use driveway ramps which are steep.

Beachcroft Ave,

Beach road slip road, which I have to use to get to Morrisons in order to use the controlled crossing point. There are many areas that need re-assessed. Some streets have a ramp on one side but no ramp on the opposite side.

### **5. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Cummings of Whitley Bay**

My understanding is that local authorities have a legal duty to remove graffiti from public buildings and structures but (unless the graffiti is offensive) there is no legal time limit to do so.

As a matter of good practice and consistent with making North Tyneside a great place to live, work and visit, will the council put a policy in place to set their own internal targets for graffiti removal and report performance back to residents (say) annually?

My reasons for asking:-

I have lived in North Tyneside for over 34 years. In that time, there has been a steady increase in the levels of criminal damage (especially graffiti) affecting high profile locations such as road signs, transport infrastructure, coastal leisure facilities (sea walls, seats, shelters) as well as many other public structures.

It's easy to report such instances. I have done so and, to their great credit, North Tyneside Council are generally responsive (certainly compared to Newcastle for example). But there are still many very obvious ugly examples of graffiti in the Borough. Visual impressions make a big impact on residents' perceptions of safety, wellbeing

and in their opinions of 'what their council does for them'. In addition, there's little point spending public money to attract visitors to coastal areas if we allow graffiti to spoil the visitors' experience.

I appreciate that there are many demands on council resources and that any commitment would probably require some zoning or area prioritisation- but surely, good councils should target and measure their performance in these aspects and report back.

If this is already being done, thank you and please pass on the details. However, I cannot find a record of any such commitment and having reported several things over recent months and spoken to councillors about specifics, I can see that there is a positive response but it appears to be without policy or plan.

#### **6. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Steele of Tynemouth**

I read with interest the claim that the council 'cuts carbon' by 53% and is 'ahead of schedule' for its 100% target. I note that the council's emissions represent less than 2% of the borough's emissions and this figure is derived from a base line set in 2010. Can you report on carbon emission reduction since the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019?

#### **7. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Remfry of Whitley Bay**

Has North Tyneside Council considered, as part of its zero-carbon Transport Strategy, a partnership with a local Car Club to enable its staff to have access to a car without having to have one of their own, thereby reducing borough carbon emissions and improving air quality?

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## Local Government Act 1972

### Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 24 November 2022

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 24 November 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 (Chair)  
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor L Arkley         | Councillor L Bartoli    |
| Councillor G Bell           | Councillor L Bell       |
| Councillor L Bones          | Councillor D Cox        |
| Councillor N Craven         | Councillor E Darke      |
| Councillor C Davis          | Councillor D Drummond   |
| Councillor P Earley         | Councillor L Ferasin    |
| Councillor M Fox            | Councillor S Graham     |
| Councillor M Hall           | Councillor T Hallway    |
| Councillor J Harrison       | Councillor Janet Hunter |
| Councillor V Jamieson       | Councillor C Johnson    |
| Councillor H Johnson        | Councillor C Johnston   |
| Councillor F Lott           | Councillor W Lott       |
| 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 R O'Keefe        | Councillor J O'Shea     |
| Councillor E Parker-Leonard | Councillor S Phillips   |
| Councillor B Pickard        | Councillor P Richardson |
| Councillor W Samuel         | Councillor O Scargill   |
| Councillor J Shaw           | Councillor M Thirlaway  |
| Councillor J Walker         | Councillor J Wallace    |
| Councillor G Westwater      | Councillor M Wilson     |

**Apologies:** Councillor K Barrie, Councillor B Burdis, Councillor C Burdis, Councillor K Clark, Councillor J Cruddas, Councillor S Day, Councillor M Green, Councillor John Hunter, Councillor J Kirwin, Councillor T Neira, Councillor A Newman, Councillor A Percy and Councillor M Rankin

#### **C48/22          Public Questions**

##### **1.          Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms S Bennett from Whitley Bay**

It is widely known that St. Mary's Island car parks are hotspots for anti-social and illegal

behaviour throughout the evening and night. The 24-hour vehicle access sees a night time increase in activities such as:

- Gathering of cars.
- “Dogging” (the practice of watching or engaging in exhibitionist sexual activity in a public place).
- Racing of cars both up and down reserve road and around the carparks. “Donutting” (where a driver revs the engine hard and puts the car into a spin with tyre rubber burning).
- Continuous and synchronized blaring of horns.
- Deliberate hard revving of car exhausts and other exhaust noise enhancing effects.
- Blatant use of drugs.
- Playing loud music.
- Littering.
- Urinating and defecating.
- Use of offensive language.
- Intimidating behaviour to visitors and volunteers working on site.

It is not uncommon to have all of these activities occurring in a single evening. St. Mary’s Island Nature Reserve is a place where people should be able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the natural environment and a place where wildlife is afforded protection from disturbance which surely puts these activities in conflict with the very ethos of a Nature Reserve.

We are aware that Northumbria police have carried out operation Dragoon in conjunction with the DVLA and North Tyneside Council is proposing possible controls on certain activities. However, neither are intended to be a long-term solution to tackling the widespread anti-social behaviour I have mentioned.

As this behaviour has been going on for some time my question is - Does NTC intend to address the problem of night-time anti-social behaviour on the nature reserve and if so how and when?

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

Thank you for your question. We know that anti-social behaviour is a key concern for our residents, as it is for every councillor in this chamber.

The Elected Mayor has established a multi-agency Taskforce earlier this year that promotes a problem-solving approach to anti-social behaviour. As well as having cross-party support, it includes a range of partners such as, Northumbria Police, Nexus, VODA, the Business Forum and Newcastle United Foundation. The Taskforce has been well-supported by all.

I am pleased that the recent data the group has been reviewing shows a significant downward trend and we will keep going with our collective efforts to solve anti-social behaviour.

The council is working in partnership with police colleagues and is listening to their views on how we work together to manage the car parks and surrounding public spaces.

There is an action plan that covers the nature reserve which includes visiting the lighthouse



car park. As part of this plan:

- The Community Protection and Security teams regularly monitor and patrol the island and surrounding areas using mobile CCTV vehicle(s)
- Where we do witness acts of anti-social behaviour such as littering and noise disturbance, we ourselves will take enforcement action
- Wardens operating our CCTV vehicle will report any illegal activity to Northumbria Police and share footage to enable enforcement action
- In addition, our Security control room will report speeding vehicles directly to the police captured on the fixed CCTV camera covering the approach to the lighthouse via the links road A183
- The Project Vita team have also added the Lighthouse car park to their list of hotspots.

As Chair of the North Tyneside Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce I will ensure that full consideration is given to what further reasonable steps could be taken to minimise anti-social behaviour in that area and address the perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

*Ms Bennett asked the following supplementary question:*

I'd be interested to know what is considered reasonable steps to tackle such anti-social behaviour.

*Councillor C Johnson responded as follows:*

Reasonable steps will be anything that could be reasonably taken to stop the initial anti-social behaviour happening. The task force will consider this issue in particular and will take any steps necessary to tackle this behaviour.

## **2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr A Steele of Tynemouth**

In the recent review of the council's Local Plan (North Tyneside Local Plan Five Year Review 2022 - Summary report) there are several references to the Plan not keeping up to date with national policy developments.

Despite this, the review considers that the Plan does not 'give rise to serious conflicts or omissions' and is 'broadly aligned [and] flexible enough' not to require review.

Considering this, and referencing sections 3 & 4, particularly around the Plan's commitments to housing - eg 'Presumption in favour of sustainable development', 'Affordable housing', 'Biodiversity net gain', 'Tree lined streets' - and the connection between these elements of housing and the council's commitment to the 'promotion of sustainable development ... and tackling climate change',

Why has the council allowed developments with low environmental and design standards to be agreed or considered (eg developments at the Trinity Church and Tynemouth Station sites) saying 'while we would always like to see all new buildings developed with enhanced sustainability measures beyond those required by Building Regulations, it is not for the Council to impose such additional measures through the planning process' when other councils are doing exactly that?

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

The Local Plan sets out a sustainable spatial strategy for development which, among other matters, seeks to reduce the need to travel, protect natural assets and provides positive policy support for the local production of energy from low carbon and renewable sources. It does not contain any specific policy on emissions standards as this was not supported by national policy at the time of its adoption.

In reviewing the plan this year, it was recognised climate change is an issue which has come into even greater focus, not least with this Council declaring a Climate Change Emergency in 2019. The improvements in construction techniques and energy efficiency already achieved, mean new homes are substantially more energy efficient than much of the existing stock in North Tyneside. Retrofitting existing housing stock remains a substantial challenge but this is outside planning control.

However, the Local Plan remains relevant in terms of existing and emerging legislation and that it continues to ensure that new development is of the highest possible standard.

Whilst it currently remains a legislative option for an energy emissions policy to be introduced into any replacement Plan, the 2022 uplift to Building Regulations (expected to achieve a 30% reduction in carbon emissions), the soundness of the spatial strategy and the clear advice on the promotion of sustainable development and tackling climate change mean the Plan continues to support the goals of the Climate Change Emergency. Its policies make a strong and achievable response to climate change while striking a balance between sustainability and economic objectives.

In terms of how the government has progressed its zero carbon homes proposals, since this time a consultation document The Future Homes Standard 2019 has set out proposals regarding energy efficiency to be achieved through building regulations. It clarified that the planning system would not likely to have a role to set energy efficiency standards and that as in the provisions of the Planning and Energy Act, which allowed Local Planning Authority's (LPA's) that set reasonable standards would be revoked.

There will be annual reviews of the plan and, although the Government expects it will become increasingly less likely LPAs will need to set local energy efficiency standards to achieve a net zero goal as other legislative changes continue to drive further improvements, we will ensure the Plan continues to support our target for a zero carbon borough.

*Mr Steele asked the following supplementary question:*

Mr Steele indicated that he missed the full answer to his original question, however stated the building developments that have been going on and looking at plans. I can't find any indication of high environmental standards, no solar panels, no windmills, no air or ground source heating. If the answer to the original question was there is a cost to those things.

I think cost to the credibility of the Councils zero carbon targets, the cost to the residents of the houses, the cost to people who are going to live in their houses in terms of energy bills when we're facing a cost-of-living crisis and the cost of retro fitting the houses and not to mention the cost to the planet, which I think it intolerable.

I wondered is that something the Council is happy to be dealing with?

*Councillor C Johnson responded as follows:*

It's good to hear Mr Steele supports all the things the next Labour Government will introduce to make houses efficient as possible.

In regard to Mr Steele's response. My response was certainly not about cost, we have standards that we want to be as high as possible, energy efficiency standards through the planning process. We always try and work to gain them.

The national plan and policy framework as introduced has a viability assessment introduced for every development in North Tyneside. With the viability assessment, that is when developers will often use that opportunity to run down their standards of environmental efficiency in buildings.

That is a statutory process the Conservative Government has set out and that we have to follow in terms of energy efficiency standards and in terms of viability process that is where we often fall down.

If the viability system is not met. Then that is when we have the opportunity to try and remove them, which I don't think should be there and hopefully that is something a Labour Government in the future will solve.

Mr Steele will be really glad to note, however, that we are building our first zero carbon building in North Tyneside, which is nearly complete. The new North Shields Bus Interchange will be a zero carbon building and when the Council is directly control in the building something, we will always strive to make it to the highest possible standard as possible.

#### **C49/22            To receive any Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were reported as follows:

Councillor C Johnson – Registerable personal interest and dispensation - Item 6 Motion 1 - Member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Janet Hunter – Registerable personal interest and dispensation – item 6 Motion 1 – Member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor D Drummond – Registerable personal interest – Item 6 Motion 1 – Employed by the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor L Bartoli – Registerable personal interest – Item 6 Motion 6 – Landlord of a property with a restaurant (No interest in the business)

Councillor O Scargill – Non-Registerable personal interest – Item 6 Motion 7 – trained within the North East and North Cumbria ICS

Councillor T Mulvenna - Registerable personal interest – Item 6 Motion 7 – Member of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care System and North and Central Integrated Care Partnerships

Councillor J O'Shea – Registerable personal interest – Item 6 Motion 7 – Member of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care System and North and Central Integrated Care Partnerships

**C50/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022.**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 September 2022 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**C51/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022.**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 November 2022 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**C52/22 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Council considered the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24.

The Panel recommended that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 remains unchanged and the allowance be increased in line with the median pay point of the annual pay award for employees working under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service, a £7.07% increase.

The Chair thanked the Panel for their work and report.

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

Council approve that the Members Allowance Scheme remains unchanged for 2023-24 and allowances set at the 2022-23 level remain for 2023-24.

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

**C53/22 Motion 1**

It was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor W Samuel that:

North Tyneside Council notes that the Home Office and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have recognised the magnificent work Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

The Fire Authority's budget for 2022/23 was set in February 2022 based on estimates that price inflation and wage growth would both be in the region of 2% to 3% in 2022/23. These were not unrealistic assumptions as they reflected the Government's own forecasts for inflation in 2022 and 2023, the Latest figure is above 10%

The local government and firefighter pay award for 2022/23 have yet to be resolved. This was already going to be difficult when pay was forecast to rise by around 2.5% The Fire Authority had, through careful budget management made provision for a 3% pay rise however this will no longer cover the potential pay demands now faced.

Council recognises that the financial challenge of inflation comes on top of the enormous pressures faced by the Fire Authority after a decade of Government austerity.

Council urges the Government to appreciate that the Fire and Rescue sector cannot resolve the current difficulties without national Government support.

Council calls upon The Elected Mayor in conjunction with all Tyne and Wear Council Leaders to write to the appropriate Government Minister, to seek additional financial support to allow Tyne and Wear Fire and rescue service to continue operating as a high level, give our fire fighters and service staff a decent pay rise and combat skyrocketing inflation, as a matter of urgency.

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

**C54/22          Motion 2**

This Motion was withdrawn.

**C55/22          Motion 3**

It was moved by Councillor E Parker Leonard and seconded by Councillor J Mudzingwa that:

**Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) Women**

In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.

The change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some women only one year's notice of a six year increase in their anticipated retirement age.

Council notes that

- The conclusion of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women, states that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances, in addition to causing financial hardship.
- A swift resolution is needed to address this ongoing injustice as this cohort of woman are dying waiting for compensation.
- This injustice has not only had a profound effect on the individuals involved but on the wider community in North Tyneside and on local government and public sector finances

Council believes WASPI women affected need a one-off compensation payment in align with the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women

Council calls upon The Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn to write to the local Members of Parliament and to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women, their family's and on the communities in North Tyneside and to seek their support for an immediate compensation package.

The motion, on being put the meeting, was approved by 40 votes with 7 abstentions.

**C56/22          Motion 4**

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

The Elections Act 2022 made significant changes to participation in elections in this country which have the potential to disenfranchise voters.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Returning Officer to write to every household to inform them of the significant changes in the Elections Act.

An amendment was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor O Scargill as follows:

The Elections Act 2022 made significant changes to participation in elections in this country which have the potential to disenfranchise voters.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Returning Officer to write to every household using language provided by the Electoral Commission to ensure neutrality, to inform them of the significant changes in the Elections Act.

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

**C57/22          Motion 5**

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

At the Council meeting held in November 2021, Councillors were assured that the Borough's war memorials were 'looked after all year round' and the Council's own website proudly claims 'The duty of looking after our war memorials is one that we take extremely seriously. Our staff routinely inspect, repair, and maintain our memorials..., We also conduct full condition surveys at regular intervals. This gives us a condition profile of each memorial so that we can identify where further work and investment might be needed.'

Following this meeting, Councillors and residents from Tynemouth have monitored the condition of the two war memorials on Tynemouth Green. Prior to their annual deep cleaning in the run-up to Remembrance Day 2022, both memorials were covered in algae with moss and weeds growing between the block paving and were still strewn with the decaying poppies of 2021's event. In order to ensure that the Council takes its responsibility to look after our war memorial seriously, we ask the Mayor to commit to:

1. Publish a schedule of cleaning for all of the Borough's war memorials at least four times per year.
2. Maintain a record of work undertaken at each memorial, including cleaning and remedial repairs, that can be accessed by Councillors.
3. Invite Councillors and resident groups to monitor the condition of the memorials before and after cleaning or any repairs.
4. Establish a programme for the respectful removal of poppies at an appropriate time following each Remembrance Day Parade.
5. Affix appropriate signage near each war memorial providing a telephone contact for

residents to report damage or disrepair.

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

**C58/22          Motion 6**

It was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor L Bartoli that:

**Restaurant Week**

North Tyneside has some of the best restaurants in the North East, with many award winning eateries being joined by new start ups in recent years. Neighbouring authorities like Newcastle and South Tyneside organise annual or bi-annual restaurant weeks as a way to boost the local tourism economy and show off local businesses in the area. Newcastle Restaurant Week is one of the North East's most popular leading food events, which celebrates some of the very best restaurants in the city.

North Tyneside has so far had sporadic success with the same concept, with the last restaurant week being held before the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then many new eateries have opened their doors and with the cost of living on the rise our local businesses could really do with a boost. North Tyneside Council is uniquely placed to bring together leading groups such as the Business Forum and the LEP to create an event similar in scale and success to that of Newcastle Restaurant Week.

North Tyneside Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to:

- begin work to introduce a Council-organised restaurant week in North Tyneside next spring as part of the wider culture and leisure offer
- offer free parking in council run car parks during restaurant week to encourage visitors to our borough
- Work with Nexus to reduce ticket prices for those travelling on the metro to visit our local restaurants in that week
- Use Council social media to advertise the event across the borough

An amendment was moved by Councillor C Johnson and seconded by Councillor Samuel that:

The first bullet point be amended to read: 'Work with already established partners to introduce a restaurant week in North Tyneside next spring as part of the wider culture and leisure offer'

Bullet point three be amended to read: Explore with Nexus to reduce ticket prices for those travelling on the metro to visit

An additional bullet point to be added to read: 'Review restaurant week 2023 and consider whether it would be more advantageous to have it organised by the council in future years.'

The amended motion therefore read:

**Restaurant Week**

North Tyneside has some of the best restaurants in the North East, with many award winning eateries being joined by new start ups in recent years. Neighbouring authorities like

Newcastle and South Tyneside organise annual or bi-annual restaurant weeks as a way to boost the local tourism economy and show off local businesses in the area. Newcastle Restaurant Week is one of the North East's most popular leading food events, which celebrates some of the very best restaurants in the city.

North Tyneside has so far had sporadic success with the same concept, with the last restaurant week being held before the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then many new eateries have opened their doors and with the cost of living on the rise our local businesses could really do with a boost. North Tyneside Council is uniquely placed to bring together leading groups such as the Business Forum and the LEP to create an event similar in scale and success to that of Newcastle Restaurant Week.

North Tyneside Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to:

- Work with already established partners to introduce a restaurant week in North Tyneside next spring as part of the wider culture and leisure offer
- offer free parking in council run car parks during restaurant week to encourage visitors to our borough
- Explore with Nexus to reduce ticket prices for those travelling on the metro to visit our local restaurants in that week
- Use Council social media to advertise the event across the borough
- Review restaurant week 2023 and consider whether it would be more advantageous to have it organised by the council in future years.

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

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

#### **C59/22            Motion 7**

It was moved by Councillor O Scargill and seconded by Councillor L Bones that:

#### **IVF - INVITRO FERTILISATION**

Access to NHS IVF funding in England varies according to your postcode, with the number of cycles and access criteria traditionally being determined by local Clinical Commissioning Groups, now Integrated Care Systems.

In accordance with the NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidelines, in North Tyneside women under 40 years old who have been trying to conceive for 2 years are offered 3 rounds of IVF. However, they face the added barrier of not being offered any rounds if one person in the relationship has a child from a previous relationship.

This is despite NICE guidance stating that IVF treatment is more effective in women who have previously been pregnant and/or had a live birth.

Council notes residents in North Tyneside are not able to access IVF treatment if one partner in the relationship has a child from a previous relationship.

Council believes this policy is dated and the criteria for IVF should match the reasonable standards set out by NICE and established by other ICSs.

Council asks the Mayor to write to the North East and North Cumbria ICS, asking to review



this policy and remove this section from their IVF access criteria.

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

### **C60/22          Appointment of Senior Coroner**

Council received a report which invited the Council to confirm the appointment of the new Senior Coroner for North Tyneside following a recent recruitment process.

It was moved by the Elected Mayor and seconded by Councillor Carl Johnson that:

Council appoint Ms Georgina Nolan as the new Senior Coroner for North Tyneside.

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

### **C61/22          Chair's Announcements**

The Chair of Council made the following announcement that she had:

- Presented Awards at the North Tyneside Adult Learning Awards
- Attended with the Elected Mayor at the unveiling of a Blue Plaque in Tynemouth celebrating Naval Architect Susan Mary Old who designed the floating vessels used during the D Day Landings in 1944.
- Presented the Spirit of North Tyneside Awards to Wheelchair Beach Access
- Lay wreaths at Killingworth, Wallsend and Whitley Bay during the well-attended Armistice week.
- Attended the State of the Area

The Chair announced that she intended not to send Christmas Cards this year with the funds to be used instead to provide food for the local foodbank and as it was the last Council meeting of the year the Chair wished all present a very happy and healthy New Year.

### **C62/22          Elected Mayor's Announcements**

The Elected Mayor announced that in response to remarks made earlier in the meeting, she wanted to be clear and clarify that no decision had been made in relation to Council Tax levels.

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## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 19 January 2023**

### **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 Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones and O Scargill**

#### **Recording of Cabinet and Council Committees**

Since the introduction of the recording and publication of Full Council meetings there has been an increased level of scrutiny and accountability. As more residents are able to see discussions for themselves, political debate within the borough has been enriched.

North Tyneside Council would like to further increase levels of transparency and accountability and therefore asks the Mayor and Council to:

1. Commit to the recording and publishing online of all Cabinet meetings and Council committee meetings, before the start of the new municipal year in May 2023, subject to the Members attending those meetings not passing a resolution to exclude the public from such meetings.
2. Invite the Monitoring Officer to advise Members on any copyright issues that might arise from all recordings of public meetings being made available to Members, the public and the press in relation to the sharing of extracts from Cabinet or Council Meetings on Social Media and anywhere else.

## **Motion 2 by Councillors M Thirlaway, C Johnson and J Cruddas**

### **Ukraine**

North Tyneside Council notes that Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We reiterate our absolute support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The resulting conflict has had a devastating impact on Ukraine, and we will continue to support all Ukrainian refugees here in North Tyneside.

We ask the Elected Mayor to:

1. Write to the Ukrainian Ambassador in the UK, reiterating North Tyneside Council's support and solidarity, and respect for his nation's sovereignty and freedom.
2. Commit to continue supporting all Ukrainian refugees here in North Tyneside for as long as necessary.

### **Motion 3 by Councillors C Davies, R O'Keefe and M Fox**

"We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and a crisis in our NHS made by the Conservatives Government.

Council believes all primary school children should get free school meals in response to the rising cost-of-living pressures on families and our shared ambitions of tackling child poverty and ensuring no child goes hungry in school.

Council believes in addition to rising food, fuel and housing costs, childcare costs are increasingly forcing growing numbers of parents out of work and see more children missing out on additional learning, and enriching activities as well as some pupils going hungry at school due to not receiving breakfasts at home, there is a well-established link between adequate food and educational attainment in schools.

Council notes that the Councils Equally Well strategy which works with partners across the borough to improve health and education outcomes recently led to the council adopting the Healthy Weight Declaration.

Up to 500 people a week are dying unnecessarily due to delays in receiving emergency treatment according to the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister calling on him to;

- Implement Universal Free School meals for all Primary School children
- Make all recipients of Universal Credit eligible to receive free school meals
- Implement Labour's plan for every child to be offered a free place at breakfast clubs.
- Urgently ask the Health Secretary to set out a plan to bring down NHS waiting lists and A&E wait times immediately.

## **Motion 4 by Councillors L Bones, L Bartoli and O Scargill**

### **EV on street charging -**

Electric vehicles are one of the best ways that households can reduce their emissions. Across the country, many people are making the swap to EV - with over 30% of all new car sales being battery powered electric vehicles. However, for many people across North Tyneside without access to off street parking, owning an electric vehicle with the ability to charge it at home is just a pipe dream.

North Tyneside Council believes that finding a sustainable solution to the issue of on-street EV charging is significant in our borough's journey to net zero.

North Tyneside Council notes the scheme which has been set up in Oxford (gul-e) gives residents the opportunity to have gullies installed on the pavement - allowing charging cables to run safely from the property to the roadside without causing a trip hazard.

North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to set up a cross-party working group to look at establishing a similar scheme in North Tyneside, particularly looking to reflect the dropped curb scheme (which includes a one-off charge for residents allowing them to have a gully installed). The group should produce a report to be presented to Full Council before the end of 2023 with plans to begin offering this to residents in early 2024.

## **Motion 5 by Councillors O Scargill, C Johnston and L Bartoli**

### **Motion - litter and dog mess**

Litter and dog mess in North Tyneside has got to an unacceptable level after years of neglect by North Tyneside's Labour-run Council. Not only does this ruin how our area looks, but it also poses health and hygiene risks.

Council notes that litter and dog mess has got to an unacceptable standard in North Tyneside.

Council believes new public bins need to be sited across the borough, with many existing public bins needing emptying more often.

Council asks the Mayor to:

- Set up an all party group to establish which bins need emptied more often, where new bins should be sited, which areas are particularly bad for dog mess and what can be done about it
- Set a target for 100 new bins across the borough before the summer, when littering is at its worst
- Introduce a refreshed public awareness campaign about dog mess within North Tyneside
- Increase the number of staff able to issue dog fouling Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

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## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 19 January 2023

### Title: Timetable of Meetings 2023/24

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Portfolio(s):</b> Elected Mayor                             | <b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Dame Norma Redfearn DBE |
| <b>Report from Service Area:</b> Law & Governance              |   |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b> Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources |   |
| <b>Wards affected:</b> All                                     |   |

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

This report presents a draft programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year. It also requests the Council to determine which Council meetings during 2023/24 should be designated for the purposes of public question time.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) agree the programme of meetings for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A to this report; and
- (2) agree that the meetings of the full Council proposed for 20 July 2023, 23 November 2023 and 18 January 2024 be those at which questions will be taken from members of the public.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 9 December 2022.

##### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to any priorities identified in the Our North Tyneside Plan.

##### 1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 The Council is requested to consider a programme of meetings for the Council and its committees for the 2023/24 municipal year, attached as Appendix A to this report. The

Authority's Constitution states that where possible the Council will set a programme of ordinary meetings of its committees and sub-committees for each year ahead. The timetable of meetings is normally agreed each year at the January Council meeting to allow Members and officers to plan ahead.

There is a proposal to review the timing of the Planning Committee in association with political group leaders and the relevant Directors, to ensure that the timing of Planning Committee meetings is optimised. This will take into account the availability of Committee Members, relevant staff, planning applicants and other interested parties, as well as the nature and volume of business to be considered at each meeting. The dates for Planning Committee in the attached schedule should therefore be considered indicative at the current time, which will be confirmed on a meeting by meeting basis in the published agenda.

Council should give consideration the any effect on the principles of decision making (Part2 of this report) if the proposed change is agreed.

1.5.2 The draft programme provides for:

- a) A timetable of meetings of the Council, its overview and scrutiny, regulatory and other committees and sub-committees.
- b) Minimal number of meetings being scheduled in August, April and the later weeks in December and no meetings on key religious days.
- c) The commencement times of meetings based on those agreed for each committee and sub-committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.
- d) The provisional dates of Cabinet meetings are included in the timetable for information. These are determined by the Elected Mayor.
- e) A Member briefing in July, September, February and April.
- f) Member development including the provision of training for regulatory committees taking place between the Annual Council Meeting and the first meeting of these committees.

1.5.3 The Council is requested to specify those Council meetings during the year at which questions from members of the public will be taken. For Members' information, in the current municipal year, three meetings were specified for that purpose.

## 1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

- (a) To agree the programme of meetings of the Council and its committees for the 2023/24 municipal year as set out in Appendix A.
- (b) To not agree the programme of meetings, in which case a further programme of meetings would be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Council for approval taking into account the reasons given by Council for not agreeing the programme.

## 1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option (a) is recommended for the following reasons:

To have in place scheduled meeting dates to enable the Authority's committees to transact their business during the Municipal Year and to enable Members and officers to plan ahead for individual committee work programmes.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix A – Draft Programme of meetings of the Council and its committees for the 2023/24 municipal year.

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Paul Wheeler, Law & Governance Tel: (0191) 643 5318  
Claire Emmerson, Head of Finance Tel: (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) Report to Council on the Programme of Council meetings – 21 January 2021
- (2) The Authority's Constitution

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

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

The running costs associated with the committee meetings held in 2023/24 can be contained within current budgets.

### **2.2 Legal**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the Council is required to give public notice of meetings of the Council and its committees.

The Authority's Constitution requires a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year to be approved by the Council. The Council has agreed that the timetable of meetings of the Council and its committees/sub committees should be agreed each year at the January Council meeting to allow Members and officers to plan ahead and to enable the decision-making processes to be complied with.

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

Consultation on the proposed timetable of meetings for 2023/24 has taken place with the Elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Group Leaders, Chief Executive, Heads of Service and officers within Democratic Services and Resources.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

## 2.6 Risk management

Failure to put in place a schedule of meetings will put at risk the ability of the Authority to transact its business efficiently.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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

**North Tyneside Council  
Programme of Scheduled Meetings 2023/24**

|                | Day          | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024  | Mar 2024 | Apr 2024 | May 2024 |
|----------------|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Council</b> | Thurs 6.00pm | 18 Ann   |           | 20        |          | 21        |          | 23       |          | 18       | 15* & 29* | 14       |          | 16 Ann   |
| <b>Cabinet</b> | Mon 6.00pm   | 22       | 26        | 31        |          | 18        | 16       | 27       |          | 22 & 29* | 5* & 19   | 25       |          |          |

| Scrutiny Meetings  | Day           | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2024 | Apr 2024 | May 2024 |
|--|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee</b>   | Mon 6.00pm    |          | 12        | 17        |          | 4         |          | 6        |          | 15       |          | 11       |          |          |
| <b>Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee</b> | Thurs 6.00pm  |          | 15        | 13        |          | 28        |          | 2        |          | 24 (Wed) |          | 28       |          |          |
| <b>Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee</b>          | Thurs 6.00pm  |          |           | 6         |          | 7         |          | 16       |          | 11       |          | 21       |          |          |
| <b>Culture and Leisure Sub Committee</b>                     | Tues 6.00pm   |          | 27        |           |          | 12        | 31       |          |          | 30       |          | 5        |          |          |
| <b>Economic Prosperity Sub Committee</b>                     | Tues 6.00pm   |          | 20        |           |          |           | 3        |          | 5        | 23       |          | 19       |          |          |
| <b>Environment Sub Committee</b>                             | Tues 6.00pm   |          |           | 11        |          | 5         |          | 7        |          | 9        | 27       |          |          |          |
| <b>Finance Sub Committee</b>                                 | Tues 6.00pm   |          |           |           | 8        | 19        |          | 28       |          |          | 6        | 26       | 2        |          |
| <b>Housing Sub Committee</b>                                 | Mon 6.00pm    |          |           | 10        |          | 25        |          | 20       |          | 29       |          | 18       |          |          |
| Regulatory Meetings  | Day           | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2024 | Apr 2024 | May 2024 |
| <b>Licensing Committee</b>                                   | Thurs 6.00pm  |          |           |           |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          | 11       |          |
| <b>Planning Committee</b>                                    | Tue TBC       | 9        | 6         | 4         | 1 & 29   | 26        | 24       | 21       | 12       | 16       | 13       | 12       | 9        | 7        |
| <b>Regulation and Review Committee</b>                       | Thurs 6.00pm  |          |           |           |          |           | 19       |          |          |          | 22       |          |          |          |
| <b>Regulation and Review Committee (Panels)</b>              | Thurs 10.00am |          | 1         | 27        |          | 14        |          | 30       |          | 11       | 8        | 21       | 18       |          |

| Other meetings                      | Day           | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug 2023 | Sept 2023 | Oct 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | Jan 2024 | Feb 2024 | Mar 2024 | Apr 2024 | May 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Audit Committee</b>              | Wed 6.00pm    | 31       |           | 26        |          |           |          | 15       |          |          |          | 20       |          |          |
| <b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b> | Thurs 10.00am |          | 22        |           |          | 28        |          | 30       |          | 25       |          | 28       |          |          |
| <b>Standards Committee</b>          | Thurs 6.00pm  |          | 1         |           |          |           |          | 9        |          |          |          |          | 4        |          |
| <b>Member Briefing</b>              | 6.00pm        |          |           | Wed 19    |          | Thurs 14  |          |          |          |          | Thurs 1  |          | Wed 10   |          |

**Notes:**

1. \* denotes Extraordinary meetings to be held as part of the budget setting process. Any notices of objection would be considered at the Council meeting on 15 February 2024. The Council meeting on 2 March 2024 is held in reserve in the event that any objections to the Mayor and Cabinet's budget proposals are approved by the Council on 15 February 2024. The Overview and Scrutiny may meet on 30 January 2024 as a Budget Study Group rather than the full Committee meeting (to be determined).
2. Additional meetings of regulatory committees such as the Regulation and Review Committee and the Licensing Sub-Committees, may be arranged as and when required.
3. Training for regulatory committees to be provisionally held as follows: Regulation & Review 23 May 2023 (10am); Audit 24 May 2023 (6pm); Planning 25 May 2023 (10am); and Licensing 26 May 2023 (10am);
4. Member development dates are set out above for Members' information.

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## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 19 January 2023**

### **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 L Bones**

In December 2021, councillors were given advice that it was safe to resume face-to-face ward surgeries. From experience, we all know just how effective these sessions can be to hearing the views of the residents we are here to serve.

Despite this guidance, the Mayor has yet to hold a single surgery or 'Mayor listens' event since the pandemic. When will the Mayor resume these crucial events?

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