



# Council

## North Tyneside Council

### To All Members of the Council

Wednesday, 8 March 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, 16 March 2023** for the transaction of the following business.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
1. <b>Apologies</b>	
2. <b>To receive any Declarations of Interest</b>	
<p>You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.</p> <p>Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.</p> <p>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.</p>	
3. <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023.</b>	<b>3 - 20</b>
4. <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2023.</b>	<b>21 - 38</b>
5. <b>Motions</b>	<b>39 - 44</b>

Five valid Motions on Notice, signed by at least three Members of the Council, have been received for consideration at this meeting.

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.

<b><u>Agenda Item</u></b>	<b><u>Page(s)</u></b>
6. <b>North Tyneside Council Pay Policy 2023/24</b>	<b>45 - 64</b>
To approve the Pay Policy statement for 2023/24 and authorises publication of the Pay Policy.	
7. <b>Designation of Monitoring Officer and Amendment of the Officer Delegation Scheme</b>	<b>65 - 78</b>
To seek Council's approval, to designate the Head of Law as the Authority's Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 April 2023.	
8. <b>Review of Allocation of Seats to Political Groups</b>	<b>79 - 84</b>
To approve the review the allocation of seats to political groups following notification of the formation of a new political group, the Independent Group.	
9. <b>Chair's Announcements</b>	
To receive any announcements by the Chair of Council.	
10. <b>Elected Mayor's Announcements</b>	
To receive any announcements by the Elected Mayor.	
11. <b>Questions by Members of the Council</b>	<b>85 - 86</b>
Two valid questions on notice have been received for a response at this meeting.	

**Yours faithfully**



**Chief Executive**

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

## Local Government Act 1972

### Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 19 January 2023

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 19 January 2023 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 K Barrie
Councillor L Bartoli	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 P Earley	Councillor L Ferasin
Councillor M Fox	Councillor S Graham
Councillor M Hall	Councillor T Hallway
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor V Jamieson
Councillor C Johnson	Councillor H Johnson
Councillor C Johnston	Councillor J Kirwin
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 T Neira	Councillor A Newman
Councillor R O'Keefe	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor E Parker-Leonard	Councillor A Percy
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor M Rankin	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 M Green, Councillor J Harrison, Councillor Janet Hunter and Councillor P Richardson

C63/22

Public Questions

## 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 become 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.

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

The Our North Tyneside Plan sets out our bold and ambitious plans to make North Tyneside an even greater place to live, work and visit by 2025. As part of this plan Wallsend has been identified as a place for investment as a result of a key component of our ambition and regeneration strategy. To date the Council has worked alongside partners to look at facilities to bring back vacant buildings into use to increase footfall into the town centre.

Hadrian Health Centre has been developed alongside the NHS and the department is now open. The Customer First Centre located on the high street provides a library facility, the Spirit of North Tyneside wing and a home for VODA.

Private sector contributions have delivered an Aldi, Wetherspoons and Burger King, the conversion of 11 derelict properties in Charlotte Street into new homes. TEDCO now occupies space in the Town Hall and provides a drop in venue for startup businesses and social enterprises' looking for guidance.

In addition, the Council organised an number of exciting events to drive footfall in the town to increase dwell time and attract new and repeat visitors.

In 2022, Wallsend CFC hosted the premiere of The World of Peter Storytime Trail which ran for 5 weeks and attracted nearly 4,000 visitors.

Families flocked to the Under the Stars event in Richardson Dees Park in February to see a beautiful fire installation, evocative soundtrack and the appearance of a larger-than-life mythical being made of stars.

In June, Wallsend was chosen to host a beacon lighting ceremony to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, attracting large crowds.

A visit from Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas to the Forum in December kicked off the festive season which also saw Christmas lights along the High Street.

New technology is being embraced to encourage people to explore the town and its attractions. The Roaming Romans Augmented Reality trail app was launched at the end of 2022 and has been used over 500 times since then with plans to expand the concept further in 2023.

This was in addition to a programme of organised events by the Council's Skills and Employability Team that support people back into work and a programme of Adult Community Learning to help digital and language skills.

The Council has placed footfall monitors in four locations in the town, to monitor footfall patterns as well as monitoring vacancies from the town for retail premises too.

Positively, the vacancies rate is well below the natural average of 40% and operates at a healthy 11 % in line to policy objectives for the town. The Council has been successful in securing £1.94m funding from North Tyneside Combined Authority. The robust work programme that includes the key objectives to maintain and increase footfall visits that records numbers and spend that can be seen in town centres and high streets.

The work package is currently in development and is set to launch before spring includes a dedicated and sport business support resource for startup SME's including free incubator programmes and the appointment of a Business Liaison Officer.

A shop front improvement scheme fund for a total of £100k in grants for business to improve the external façade of properties. Animation programme that builds on the successful event particularly the augmented reality trail that brings Segedunum into the town centre., strengthening the connectivity between Segedunum and the town centre and creating an improve route which will enable also the use of Hadrian Wall cycle route to provide access to the rest of the towns assets to increase footfall including animated trails.

As a result of the High Street Partnership Board including representatives from local businesses and the Council has also been established and provides a forum for key stakeholders in the town to get together to ensure innovations and contributions to the objectives of the project. Increased footfall being the key one.

In addition, the Government's High Street Task Force, who are also providing advice and support to building capacity of businesses to become more involved in their town. Building a successful work and well hub in North Shields, the Council is also planning to restore one in Wallsend which would generate footfall.

Work continues to prepare the Wallsend Master Plan which was approved by Cabinet in November 2022, which should be in public engagement in January and February 2023. This looks at improvements in the town in terms of roads and footpaths in High Street East and West, Station Road. Improvements to the Segedunum museum, increased cycling provision, business support events and further partnership working and the owners of the former shopping centre to support further investment from them. All contributing to improve the environment for the visitors and residents that come and enjoy the town.

Sadly, we also submitted to the levelling up fund application in June 2022 for £20m of much needed funds for Wallsend. Sadly, the Conservative Government chose to give this money to leafy Richmond and Rishi Sunak's constituency instead of the much needed work in Wallsend.

## **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.

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

We take the management of our highway network very seriously and road safety is a vital part of this. Each year we undertake a substantial program of maintenance and management works on the highway network, including extensive vegetation management work.

As part of this the Authorities highway inspectors undertake periodic inspections of all streets in the borough, which includes road signs and where vegetation cutbacks are identified they will be added to our works program. Landowners are also notified of their obligations to cutback foliage where appropriate. We also take routine management works on our highway network such as gully cleansing, litter removal sweeping and vegetation clearance. This included for example the A1058 Coast Road and the A188/A189 Salters Lane corridor, where management works are carried out twice a year.

One-off works such as thorough vegetation cutback are also undertaken as and when required. Our vegetation management program includes works in the vicinity of highway junctions to maintain visibility and support road safety.

We will continue to work to ensure our highways are managed and maintained to support road safety and to the benefit of residents and visitors.

### **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?

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

Thank you, Mr Cadman, for your question.

Whilst there is not a regional action plan to assess and remove Ash trees I would like to explain our planned approach within North Tyneside. Our inspection regime takes place between April and September when the trees are in leaf.

The first phase of Ash tree inspections began in July 2022 where we assessed the severity of the disease in each tree following nationally recognised guidance, which categorise trees into bands 1 to 4.

Any tree categorised as either 3 or 4 has been identified for removal. I'm pleased to report that the work fell to Ash trees identified in phase one of the inspection program began in October last year and will be completed by the end of March this year.

The inspection of Ash trees will continue to take place annually and will commence again in April this year and any further trees identified for removal will be added to the work program.

With regards to tree planting, I can confirm the list of locations has been agreed for this

current season where a further 280 trees will be planted. Planting of these trees commenced in November 2022 and will be completed by March this year. This will include replacements in some residential streets, where residents have asked for them to be replaced.

As part of our ongoing commitment to annual tree planting across the borough, members of the public can suggest new locations, which will be considered in line with our strategy. I hope this demonstrates the Council's commitment to the management of trees across the borough. Thank you once again for your question

#### **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.

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

The Council's Transport Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan aims to have a well-maintained highway network for the enjoyment of all highway users including members of the public who may have mobility issues.

As such we allocate funding every year for a rolling programme of work to install dropped kerbs at junctions and other key locations in order to make routes more viable for mobility scooters.

The Council's highways team have made an assessment of the dropped kerb requirements at Beach Croft Avenue and the Beach Road route to the Morrisons pedestrian crossing. I am pleased to confirm that the improvements will be included in the next phase of dropped kerb work which will commence later this year.

#### **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 Page 4 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.

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

Thank you for your question.

I can confirm that the Authority does have a statutory obligation to remove graffiti, and to help us meet these obligations, we have a set of environmental maintenance standards in place which includes graffiti removal. These standards are published on the council's website. I am pleased to confirm that the Authority does have response targets in place.

For example, we aim to respond to any reports of graffiti within 3 working days. However, for reports of offensive graffiti the response target is much quicker where we aim to remove graffiti within an hour of receiving a report.

The majority of the graffiti reports received are removed by our dedicated graffiti removal team however, on some occasions, external specialist removal is required to avoid causing damage to property, structures and road signs.

We manage performance against our graffiti removal targets internally and report our performance to the Association of Public Service Excellence.

I hope the information that I have provided provides reassurance of the council's commitment and approach to the removal of graffiti from across the borough, to ensure that North Tyneside remains a great place to live, work and visit. Thank you once again for your question.

## **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?

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

Thank you for your question. Responding to the climate emergency is a top policy priority for



this Council and I am proud of the work we are doing.

The statements we make about our action to tackle the climate emergency rather than claims are measured impacts in line with national and international methods such as the Greenhouse gas reporting protocol and I am confident in our numbers.

When a climate emergency was declared at full Council in July 2019, the Council's carbon footprint was already down by 45%. The declaration of a climate emergency was not the start of our ambitious programme of work, and we had already made significant achievements.

The Council's most recently reported carbon footprint for the year 2021/22 is 53% down and we are projecting a further reduction to 55% at the end of this financial year.

Over the next 12 to 18 months, we will see further significant reductions as we convert more streetlights to LED, enjoy full year benefits of our Solar PV scheme at Killingworth depot and our air source heat pumps 'go live' at four leisure centres. An annual data set is provided to the Authority by Central Government detailing the carbon footprint of the Borough.

This is usually 18 months after the end of the reporting period. At the time of declaring the climate emergency in July 2019, Borough-wide carbon emissions had decreased by 39% in real terms and by 42% per head of population. The most recent data set available to us is for the calendar year 2020 and shows that the carbon footprint of the Borough has decreased by 47% in real terms and by 51% per head of population.

The Council publishes an annual performance report on its website that details the year-on-year measurement of the Authority's and Borough's respective carbon footprints. You can also find our Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action plan on our website. Thank you again for your question.

*Mr Steele asked the following supplementary question.*

What other targets do you have, and challenges do you see to get to the ambitious target to 2030?

*Councillor S Graham responded as follows:*

We have a climate emergency board both internally with the Council and externally.

We have 158 actions on our Carbon 2030 action plan. If you look at the plan Mr Steele, you will find there is a huge ambitious target this authority has on every front. There is nothing that we do in this local authority that does not involve climate change it's at the back of our minds at every juncture, every decision we make we consider climate change.

## **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?

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

The Authority has considered the option to seeking an arrangement of a car club in relation to staff travel. We firstly support our employees to travel to work by walking, cycling and public transport in accordance with the approach taken in North Tyneside Transport Strategy and wider North East Transport Plan.

We have a number of initiatives in place to make it easier and more affordable for staff to use more sustainable modes of transport for their journey to work, and as part of work. These include a Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme, and options for employees to purchase public transport season tickets. Car sharing the journey to work is a further option to reduce costs and carbon emissions and many of our employees can take part in this through the Cobalt Park car sharing scheme.

When our employees need to travel as part of their work they do, we are increasingly converting our fleet used to electric vehicles and they also pool vehicles arrangements in place to support the operational requirements of service areas within the authority and its partners.

In addition, our employee team have access to car leasing via salary sacrifice arrangement that helps employees to obtain more modern vehicles which are likely to be lower emission than older cars. As part of our Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan, we will be looking at options to increase the take-up of zero-emission vehicles through this scheme.

On Cobalt we have two car club providers in operation and right around the borough both Co-Wheels and Enterprise have car clubs' operations that not just North Tyneside staff but any member of the public can sign up to and we would encourage them to do so.

The measures which I have discussed will complement the wider measures set out in our Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan to deliver carbon reduction and support improved local air quality in the borough.

**C64/22          Minute Silence**

A minutes silence was held in memory of former Councillor Keith Smiles who was a Councillor for Cullercoats Ward from 1995-1999.

**C65/22          Announcement from the Chair regarding the Elected Mayor**

The Chair invited members to join her in congratulating the Elected Mayor on being awarded a Damehood in this year's New Year's Honour List in recognition of her work in Political and Public Service.

**C66/22          To receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C67/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 November 2022 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**C68/22 Motion 1**

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

**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.

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

In paragraph 1, to add the following after Council Committee Meetings: 'when the new technology which the council is in the process of installing is up and running and fully tested which is due to be May 2023', and remove 'before the start of the new municipal year in May 2023'.

To add the following sentence to the end of paragraph 2: 'Furthermore, invite the monitoring officer to advise of any legal or standards issues which may arise from sharing edited clip or taking clips out of context while sharing them.'

The amended motion therefore read:

**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 when the new technology which the council is in the process of installing is up and running and fully tested which is due to be 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. Furthermore, invite the monitoring officer to advise of any legal or standards issues which may arise from sharing edited clip or taking clips out of context while sharing them.

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

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

### **C69/22          Motion 2**

It was moved by Councillor M Thirlaway and seconded by Councillor G Bell that:

#### **Ukraine**

North Tyneside Council notes that Friday 24th 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.

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

### **C70/22          Motion 3**

It was moved by Councillor C Davis and seconded by Councillor M Fox that:

"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."

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 48 votes to 9.

#### **C71/22          Motion 4**

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

#### **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.

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

Paragraph 4 be amended to:

- delete 'at establishing a similar scheme in North Tyneside', and replace with 'holistically at all options available to improve EV provision in North Tyneside';
- to delete 'which includes a one of charge for residents allowing them to have a gully installed'; and
- to delete 'with plans to begin offering this to residents in early 2024' and replace with 'setting out a plan to submit to Cabinet'.

The amended motion therefore read:

### **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 holistically at all options available to improve EV provision in North Tyneside, particularly looking to reflect the dropped curb scheme. The group should produce a report to be presented to Full Council before the end of 2023 setting out a plan to submit to cabinet.

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

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

### **C72/22          Motion 5**

It was moved by Councillor O Scargill and seconded by Councillor C Johnston that:

'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).'

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

Votes for the Motion:

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

Votes against the Motion:

Dame N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, L Ferasin, S Graham, M Hall, T Hallway, John Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, L Marshall, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, E Parker-Leonard, J O'Shea, N Percy, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

Abstentions:

Councillor M Fox

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was rejected by 47 votes to 9 votes with 1 abstention.

### **C73/22            Urgent Motion 6**

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

'The Conservative Government have refused to back two high-quality £20 Million levelling up bids for North Shields and Wallsend which would have enabled further regeneration of each town and secured the historic cross Tyne ferry's future. The Tories have let our area down while giving £19 Million to Rishi Sunak's leafy Richmond constituency.

Council believes The Conservative Government made us bid with one hand tied behind our back by capping our bid score at 80% deeming us not a priority while the Prime Ministers own constituency and many marginal seats with Conservative MPs are deemed a priority.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask them to:

- Urgently review the decision to not award the funding to North Shields and Wallsend.
- Urgently commit to a review of the allocation criteria to Levelling up funds to ensure funds get to where they are needed.
- Immediately place North Tyneside into the priority 1 category ahead of any future rounds

of levelling up funding as opposed to the current second rate priority so our bid score is not capped at 80%.’

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

To remove paragraphs 1 and 2 and replace with ‘North Tyneside has unfortunately lost out in the Government’s Levelling up fund round two allocations which included two £20 Million leveling up bids for North Shields and Wallsend. These would have enabled further regeneration of each town and secured the historic cross Tyne ferry’s future.

The amended motion therefore read:

North Tyneside has unfortunately lost out in the Government’s Levelling up fund round two allocations which included two £20 Million leveling up bids for North Shields and Wallsend. These would have enabled further regeneration of each town and secured the historic cross Tyne ferry’s future.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask them to:

- Urgently review the decision to not award the funding to North Shields and Wallsend.
- Urgently commit to a review of the allocation criteria to Levelling up funds to ensure funds get to where they are needed.
- Immediately place North Tyneside into the priority 1 category ahead of any future rounds of levelling up funding as opposed to the current second rate priority so our bid score is not capped at 80%.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting was rejected by 47 votes to 9 votes.

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

**Votes for the Motion,**

Dame N Redfearn, Elected Mayor and Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, L Ferasin, M Fox, S Graham, M Hall, T Hallway, John Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, L Marshall, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O’Keefe, J O’Shea, N Percy, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

**Abstentions:**

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

The substantive Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 47 votes to 0 with 9 abstentions.



**C74/22            Timetable of Meetings 2023/24**

Council received a report which set out a draft programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year.

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

- Council agree the programme of meetings for 2023/24 set out in Appendix A of the report.
- Council 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.

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

**C75/22            Chair's Announcements**

The Chair of Council made the following announcement:

To remind members that they are invited to the Holocaust Memorial event that will be taking place next Friday 27 January.

**C76/22            Elected Mayor's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**C77/22            Questions by Members of the Council**

**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?

*The Elected mayor responded as follow:*

Thank you for your question Councillor Bones.

I am delighted to be able to engage with many of our residents each month in many different ways, not just through the Listens Events. Residents can make direct contact with me via the phone, email, letter or by talking to me when I am out and about at various locations across the borough or at the broad range of different events I attend.

I am sure that you will agree that the one thing that the pandemic has allowed us all is an opportunity to look at the way in which we deliver services and make adjustments that better meet the needs of our residents. That has included how best to engage with our residents.

When I first started the listening events when campaigning for the first Mayoral elections and some residents commented that we engaged only at election time, that they were never listened too and that some councillors were unapproachable.

So when first elected as Mayor I decided to have Listening Events and although the Listen's Event initially attracted high numbers the most recent at the Killingworth Centre on 11 January 2020 had only 11 residents. Prior to this event at the Beacon Centre, North Shields on 9 November 2019 prior I spoke to 6 residents with 3 with the same concern.

This compares to over 1,400 enquiries made directly to me in 2020, 1,140 in 2021 and 1,300 in 2022.

As Members will be aware I attend many many different events during the year which provide an excellent way for hundreds of residents to speak to me directly – this includes the recent Spirit of North Tyneside celebration event, the very successful North Tyneside Together event in the summer last year as well of course as the State of the Area Event which you also attended. I also meet regularly with different organisations such as the Business Forum, Community Groups right across the borough.

I hope that this assures Councillor Bones that our residents can and do contact me about any matter that they consider important to them in this borough.

I have found over the last few years that the best way to make contact with your residents and meet them face to face is to introduce street surgeries and discuss what's concerning the residents and get lots of queries that I can deal with very quickly.

So of course I will keep this under review and if I feel that it would be appropriate to return to the Listens Events I will do so.

*Councillor L Bones asked the following supplementary question:*

The Mayor does not hold listening events anymore, my question is what is the Mayor afraid of?

*The Elected Mayor responded as follows:*

If I was such a terrible Mayor, I would not have been elected three times with an increased majority.

## **2. Urgent Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor O Scargill**

The allocation of Levelling-Up Fund grants has seen millions of pounds investment to Northumberland to our north, the North East Combined authority to our south and Gateshead's Labour-run council (which has received almost £20 million to fund regeneration).

Does the mayor accept that, based on these facts, funding has not been allocated on party political grounds and instead acknowledge that other authorities have submitted higher quality bids for this funding?

*The Elected Mayor responded as follows.*

No, Councillor Scargill.

*Councillor O Scargill asked the following supplementary question:*

When will the Mayor and her administration accept responsibility for their own failures rather than blaming everyone else around them?

*The Elected Mayor responded as follows.*

I have never blamed anyone for anything that I was responsible for Councillor Scargill.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Local Government Act 1972

### Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 16 February 2023

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 16 February 2023 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 K Barrie
Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor G 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 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 J Kirwin
Councillor F Lott	Councillor W Lott
Councillor G Madden	Councillor L Marshall
Councillor P McIntyre	Councillor J Montague
Councillor J Mudzingwa	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor M Murphy	Councillor T Neira
Councillor A Newman	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor M Rankin	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 L Bell, Councillor M Green, Councillor A McMullen, Councillor R O'Keefe, Councillor E Parker-Leonard and Councillor P Richardson

**C78/21**      **To receive any Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded all Members of the Council about the position with regard to interests in meetings of the Council that dealt with the Budget proposals.

In relation to a Registerable Personal Interest held where a Member had been appointed by the Authority to an outside body or bodies, dispensations had been granted to allow them to participate and vote at any meeting.

Where Members had been granted such dispensations, they were not required to declare these registerable personal interests or the grant of dispensations at this meeting.

A list of the appointments to the Authority's Outside Bodies and dispensations granted to Members in respect to appointments had been circulated to all Members.

Members who had any further interests were invited to declare them.

The following additional declarations of interest were made in relation to the item below (Minute C1/23):

Item 3 – 2023-2027 Financial Planning and Budget Process: Elected Mayor and Cabinet Budget and Council Tax Requirement Resolution for 2023/24.

Councillor L Bones - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor K Clark – Registerable personal interest – Director and employee of Justice Prince CIC, an organisation that receives funding from the Authority and indicated would withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor J Cruddas – Registerable personal interest - Director and employee of Justice Prince CIC, an organisation that receives funding from the Authority and indicated would withdraw from the meeting.

Councillor D Cox – non-registerable personal interest – family member receives Adult Social Care

Councillor C Davis – non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor D Drummond – registerable personal interest – is employed by the Tyne & Wear Fire Authority

Councillor P Earley - registerable personal interest – is a trustee of North Tyneside Carers Centre which receives funding from the Council.

Councillor V Jamieson – registerable personal interest – is a trustee of Walking With Charity.

Councillor F Lott - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor W Lott - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the

Authority.

Councillor G Madden – registerable personal interest as manager of Memorial Hall in Wallsend and non-registerable personal interest - family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor M Murphy – non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor M Rankin - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor W Samuel - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority.

Councillor M Thirlaway - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by the Authority and a registerable personal interest - works for a company that has contracts with the Authority.

Councillor P Oliver – non-registerable personal interest – family member receives adult social care.

**C79/21                    2023-2027 Financial Planning and Budget Process: Elected Mayor and Cabinet Budget and Council Tax Requirement Resolution for 2023/24**

(Councillors K Clark and J Cruddas withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item).

The Chair explained the procedure for the meeting and indicated that she would first request Councillor M Rankin to move the Elected Mayor and Cabinet proposals. Once those proposals were seconded, Members would then have the opportunity to ask questions relating to matters of principle.

The following additional documents had been also circulated to all Members of the Council:

- Notification of Final Amendments made under Delegated Authority of the Mayor
- Conservative Group Notice of Objection
- List of the Authority's appointments to outside bodies and dispensations granted

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

- (a) Agree the recommendations and delegations set down in paragraph 1.5.24 of this report in relation to the 2023/24 General Fund Revenue Account Budget, the 2023/24 Council Tax Requirement and Council Tax Level for 2023/24, being the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's Budget and Council Tax Requirement Resolution.
- (b) Agree the Elected Mayor and Cabinet's proposals for the 2023-2028 Investment Plan, including the Capital Investment Strategy and proposed prudential indicators for 2023-2027, previously agreed at Cabinet on 30 January 2023, attached in the General Fund Annex 1, Appendix D (i), (iii) and (iv) of Appendix A to this report;
- (c) Agree to the administrative change which will make it easier for new Universal Credit

(UC) claimants to claim Council Tax Support using information from the Department for Work and Pensions, Annex 1, Section 3.1.6; and

- (d) Agree the Elected Mayor and Cabinet’s proposals for the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Statement for 2023/24, attached in the General Fund Annex 1, Appendix E (i), (ii) of Appendix A to this report.

**2023/24 Council Tax Requirement Resolution**

1. The recommended Budgets of the Authority be approved as noted below, subject to the variations listed in paragraphs 2 and 3 below and noting the estimated allocation of £197.763m in Dedicated Schools Grant, for 2023/24:

	£
General Fund Revenue Budget	182,458,582
Total	<u>182,458,582</u>

2. The following levies be included in the Budget Requirement:

	£
The Tyne and Wear element of the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Transport Levy	12,597,052
Environment Agency	216,198
Total	<u>12,813,250</u>

2. The contingency be set as follows:

	£
Contingency	17,779,572
Total	<u>17,779,572</u>

4. Note that at its meeting held on 23 January 2023, Cabinet agreed the Council Tax base for 2023/24 for the whole Authority area as 62,692 (Item T), in the Formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”) and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
5. Agree that the Council Tax Requirement for the Authority’s own purposes for 2023/24 is £116,052,296 (as set down in paragraph 1.5.23, Table 4).
6. Agrees that the following amounts now calculated by the Authority for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
- (a) £391,129,285 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)of the Act.
  - (b) £275,076,989 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the



Act.

- (c) £116,052,296 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,851.15 Being the amount at 6(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Authority, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) North Tyneside Council Valuation Bands

Council Tax Band	£
A	1,234.10
B	1,439.78
C	1,645.46
D	1,851.15
E	2,262.51
F	2,673.88
G	2,085.25
H	3,702.30

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 6(e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Authority, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(f) Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Valuation Bands

Note that for the year 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria has issued the following amounts in precepts to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings in the Authority's area, as indicated below:

Council Tax Band	£
A	112.56
B	131.32
C	150.08
D	168.84
E	206.36
F	243.88

G	281.40
H	337.68

(g) Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Valuation Bands

Note that for the year 2023/24 the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority has issued the following amounts in precepts to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings in the Authority's area, as indicated below:

Council Tax Band	£
A	61.57
B	71.83
C	82.09
D	92.35
E	112.87
F	133.39
G	153.92
H	184.70

(h) Total Valuation Bands

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(e), 6(f) and 6(g) above, the Authority, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Council Tax Band	£
A	1,408.23
B	1,642.93
C	1,877.63
D	2,112.34
E	2,581.74
F	2,051.15
G	3,520.57
H	4,224.68

7. The Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.
8. The Authority's Financial Regulations will apply to the financial management of this Budget.
9. The level of contingencies will be £17.780m as pressures incurred during

2022/23 relating to Social Care, pay award and energy and contractual inflation have been recognised as part of the 2023/24 Financial Planning and Budget process.

10. It is proposed that virement levels and approvals for virement shall be in accordance with the rules set down in the Authority's Financial Regulations in force at the time.
11. The Reserves and Balances Policy is adopted as set out and is subject to review at least annually.
12. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Senior Leadership Team to manage the overall Efficiency Programme and note that decisions made under this delegated authority will be reported to Cabinet as part of the regular budget monitoring information provided.
13. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and Director of Resources, to authorise the purchase of properties, on the open market, providing value for money is demonstrated and the cost can be contained within existing financial resources of the Authority. This is to ensure that the programme of delivery of affordable homes and homes at social rent is progressed in line with the Cabinet's priorities.
14. The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to serve notices, enter into agreements, give receipts, make adjustments, institute proceedings, and take any action available to the Authority to collect or enforce the collection of Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax from those persons liable.
15. The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to disburse monies from funds and accounts of the Authority as required for the lawful discharge of its functions.
16. Agree that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority receive payment from the Collection Fund in 12 equal instalments on the last working day of each month.
17. Payments from the Collection Fund to be made to the Authority's General Fund in 12 equal instalments on the last working day of each month.

### **Conservative Group Objection**

An Objection was moved by Councillor L Bones and seconded by Councillor O Scargill, as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Chair invited Members to ask questions and then to speak to the Objection.

The Chair asked that a recorded vote be taken on the Conservative Group Objection.

### **Votes for the Objection to the Budget**

Councillors L Arkley, K Barrie, L Bartoli, L Bones, C Johnston, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J

Wallace and G Westwater.

**Votes against the Objection to the Budget**

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor, Councillors G Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, D Cox, N Craven, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, L Ferasin, M Fox, S Graham, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, L Marshall, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, J O’Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

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

The Chair announced that as the Council had not agreed the Conservative Group objection, Members were invited to ask questions and then to speak on the Elected Mayor and Cabinet’s proposals (the substantive motion).

The Chair asked that a recorded vote be taken on the Mayor and Cabinet’s proposals.

**Votes for the Elected Mayor and Cabinet’s Proposals**

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor, Councillors G Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, D Cox, N Craven, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, L Ferasin, M Fox, S Graham, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwin, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, L Marshall, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, J O’Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, J Shaw, M Thirlaway, J Walker and M Wilson.

**Votes against the Elected Mayor and Cabinet’s Proposals:**

Councillors P McIntyre, J Wallace and G Westwater

**Abstentions:**

L Arkley, K Barrie, L Bartoli, L Bones, C Johnston and O Scargill

The substantive motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 42 votes to 3 votes, with 6 abstentions.

The Chair announced that the Elected Mayor and Cabinet’s Budget and Council Tax Council Requirement Resolution for 2023/24 had been approved by the Council and therefore the meeting provisionally scheduled for 2 March 2023 was no longer required.

Appendix 1

**North Tyneside Council  
Report to Council  
Date: 16 February 2023**

<b>Title: 2023-2027 Financial Planning and Budget Process: Conservative Group Notice of Objection</b>
---

**Report of: The Conservative Group**

**Wards affected: ALL**

---

**Conservative Group Notice of Objection for the 2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget, the proposed Council Tax Level for 2023/24, the Investment Plan for 2023-2028 and the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24**

**1.0 Introduction - Better services for less**

- 1.1 The alternative budget presented by the Conservative Group sets out a plan to refocus the Authority - to deliver better services for less Council Tax. The Conservative proposal is built upon the three issues that residents tell us they are most worried about: tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, fixing our roads and pavements and easing the Council Tax burden on families across North Tyneside.
- 1.2 Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are blighting communities across our Borough, but the Mayor and Labour Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) have taken little to no action. This budget sets out a plan for 10 new Community Wardens to tackle the problem across North Tyneside. These Wardens would work within the existing Community Protection Team to ensure the Authority is able to respond to events quickly and effectively, keeping our communities safe.
- 1.3 The issue of anti-social behaviour is seen most often on the Metro system at the coast which is why we have set aside a £0.100m fund to negotiate an arrangement with Nexus to have ticket barriers installed and manned at Tynemouth and Cullercoats stations. The plan would see barriers operated during ASB flashpoints in school holidays, hot summer days and high-profile events to reduce the numbers coming to the coast just to cause trouble.
- 1.4 Our plan to tackle anti-social behaviour also includes direct action to prevent the scourge of litter and fly-tipping across our area with 100 new bins and a new advertising campaign. There is also provision to remove all charges at recycling centres which we believe will reduce the number of fly tipping reports. In addition to this our 10 new Community Wardens would have the power to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) for dog fouling and littering, bolstering the Authority's capacity to crack down on these anti-social habits for good.
- 1.5 Residents often complain to us that trees across North Tyneside are not maintained in the way that we would expect - the impact of Storm Arwen on our area would support these claims. With so many tree-lined streets it is imperative that the Council maintains trees in a proper way, cutting them back regularly and keeping them healthy. Our Budget gives the arborist team the capacity to do just that, increasing the capacity of the core team with three new staff members to create a third permanent Arbor team. Under our plan residents can rest assured trees would be properly maintained.
- 1.6 Fixing our roads and pavements is a top priority for residents - after a decade of neglect by this Labour administration residents complain that it is more common to see a broken pavement than a flat one. Our Budget sets aside an extra £1 million in

the Investment Plan for the road and pavement repair fund to get repairs happening at pace to bring the network up to a respectable standard. This will come as a huge relief for residents who are all too often told that roads which are down to the cobbles are 'not in need of repair' and pavements which they have tripped on 'are subject to a 6-month check-up'. Our roads and pavements need action now and that is exactly what this Conservative Budget delivers.

- 1.7 The Mayor and her administration have become known for vanity projects like the £1.5 million pound Dutch-style roundabout, but once these projects are built the maintenance seems to just fall away. So, rather than spend many more millions on these kind of photo opportunities, we are instead investing in a cycle-path maintenance scheme, including a leaf sweeper and a gritter designed specifically to ensure these multi-million-pound schemes can be used - and not just by the Mayor for a photo opportunity!
- 1.8 Finally, our budget recognises the financial pressures which residents across North Tyneside are facing. So, rather than increasing Council Tax by the maximum like Labour do each year without thought, we propose a reduction in the Council Tax increase. This will help residents keep more of the money they earn while ensuring the Authority has enough to deliver top class services as set out in this alternative budget.
- 1.9 Our Budget also asks the Mayor and Cabinet to remove the Rent increase for the HRA Tenants for 2023/24 and look for further efficiencies for 2023/24 and beyond that sustain this reduction for Tenants. At a time when there are significant pressures on residents' finances, a rent freeze seems a very obvious way to ensure some of our poorest residents aren't being pushed further into poverty by the Authority.
- 1.10 Our Budget pays for better services by cutting the cost of politics: getting rid of the chauffeur driven car, abolishing councillors' expenses and axing the Council Magazine. These are changes that residents will be glad to see. The question is will Labour Councillors take this moment of introspection and ask themselves, in the interests of residents, is now finally the time to stop the gravy train and get off.
- 1.11 We have included the use of £0.150m from the Strategic Reserve to allow the Authority to reconvene the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider our Group's proposal to reduce basic and special responsibility allowances. The Reserve usage provides resources in the event that the changes are not approved by Council during 2023/24. At a time when residents' finances are being squeezed, we would take a closer look at whether spending almost £1 million per year on Councillors allowances is prudent.
- 1.12 A saving of £0.182m is included by reducing the Communications and Marketing Team to the level required to deliver statutory and public health communications. We would also conduct a review of the Mayor's Office, including obtaining benchmarking information from regional neighbours, to explore the opportunity to reduce the cost of this team for future years.
- 1.13 This budget proposes to reduce the amount of borrowing undertaken by the Authority by removing the loan on the Trading Company for affordable homes from the Investment Plan. Over the 5-year period, this would remove £12.5m, with £1.5m removed in 2023/24. We do not believe that a £12.5m loan to build houses, when

thousands are already being built across North Tyneside is a good use of money.

- 1.14 Achieving Net Zero by the government’s ambitious 2050 target is both sensible and achievable, but this Labour administration has instead chosen to go at a faster pace, costing residents hundreds of thousands of pounds on unproven technology. Our plan would move our net zero target in line with the Government’s 2050 target, meaning that we can ensure technology like heat-pumps and electric vehicles are cheaper and more reliable before we spend millions of pounds on them. During an international cost of living crisis this seems to us to be a pragmatic decision.

This Conservative budget delivers better services for less, with a lower rate of Council tax than Labour, with less borrowing than Labour and enhanced public services to tackle the issues our residents care about.

**2.0 2023/24 Council Tax Requirement Resolution**

2.1 The Conservative Group recommends that:

1. The recommended Budgets of the Authority be approved as noted below, subject to the variations listed in paragraphs 2 and 3 below:

	£
General Fund Revenue Budget	182,058,607
Total	<u>182,058,607</u>

2. The following levies be included in the Budget Requirement:

	£
The Tyne and Wear element of the Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland Combined Authority Transport Levy	12,597,052
Environment Agency	216,198
Total	<u>12,813,250</u>

3. The contingency be set as follows:

	£
Contingency	17,702,331
Total	<u>17,702,331</u>

4. The following objections are proposed to be incorporated in full within the Authority’s Budget.

**Table 1 – Notice of Objection Growth Requirement**

Item	
1.	Reduce the Council Tax Increase
2.	Increasing the Arborist Team by one full Team to 3 Teams
3.	10 New Community Wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour, litter and dog mess.
4.	Remove recycling centre charges to reduce fly tipping
5.	Cycle path maintenance (Staffing)
6.	100 New Bins (Staffing)
7.	New anti-litter advertising campaign
8.	Set aside funding for a partnership with Nexus to deliver manned ticket barriers at Tynemouth and Cullercoats Metro Stations to tackle anti-social behaviour
9.	Removal Services Grant Allocation from Contingencies
	<b>Total Growth requirement for the Objection Revenue Budget</b>

**Table 2 – Notice of Objection Savings / Income Requirement**

Item	
1.	Civic Car Staffing & Associated Costs
2.	Civic Car licence registration
3.	Cease publication of the Council magazine
4.	Removal of the Climate Change Revenue Budget
5.	Removal of Members expenses
6.	Reduce by 50% the Trade Union Facility time.
7.	Reduction to the Communications & Marketing Team Staffing
8.	Net reduction to the Events Unit Team Staffing
9.	One-off use of the Strategic Reserve to undertake a review of the Members Allowances Scheme
10.	Maintain the Authority's Council Tax Hardship Support at the current level of up to £150 per eligible household
11.	Use of the Service Improvement Fund (relates to point 6 growth)
	<b>Total Savings / Income requirement for the Objection Revenue Budget</b>

5. Note that at its meeting held on 23 January 2023, Cabinet agreed the Council Tax base for 2023/24 for the whole Authority area as 62,692 (Item T), in the Formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act") and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
6. Agree that the Council Tax Requirement for the Authority's own purposes for 2023/24 is £115,652,321, as set out below:



**Table 3 – 2023/24 Council Tax Requirement**

	£	£
2023/24 Budget Requirement		182,058,607
Financed by:		
Revenue Support Grant	(13,283,804)	
Retained Business Rates	(31,193,251)	
Business Rates Top Up	(20,691,786)	
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	(1,237,445)	
		(66,406,286)
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>		<b>115,652,321</b>

7. Agrees that the following amounts now calculated by the Authority for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
- (a) £390,727,310 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £275,074,989 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £115,652,321 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,844.77 Being the amount at 6(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Authority, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (e) North Tyneside Council Valuation Bands

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>£</b>
A	1,229.85
B	1,434.82
C	1,639.80
D	1,844.77
E	2,254.72
F	2,664.67
G	3,074.62
H	3,689.54

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 6(e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Authority, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(f) Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Valuation Bands

Note that for the year 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria has issued the following amounts in precepts to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings in the Authority's area, as indicated below:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>£</b>
A	112.56
B	131.32
C	150.08
D	168.84
E	206.36
F	243.88
G	281.40
H	337.68

(g) Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Valuation Bands

Note that for the year 2023/24 the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority has issued the following amounts in precepts to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings in the Authority's area, as indicated below:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>£</b>
A	61.57
B	71.83
C	82.09
D	92.35
E	112.87
F	133.39
G	153.92
H	184.70

(h) Total Valuation Bands

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(e),

6(f) and 6(g) above, the Authority, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>£</b>
A	1,403.98
B	1,637.97
C	1,871.97
D	2,105.96
E	2,573.95
F	3,041.94
G	3,509.94
H	4,211.92

8. The Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.
9. The Authority's Financial Regulations will apply to the financial management of this Budget.
10. The level of contingencies will be £17.702m as pressures incurred during 2022/23 relating to Social Care, pay award and energy and contractual inflation have been recognised as part of the 2023/24 Financial Planning and Budget process.
11. It is proposed that virement levels and approvals for virement shall be in accordance with the rules set down in the Authority's Financial Regulations in force at the time.
12. The Reserves and Balances Policy is adopted as set out and is subject to review at least annually.
13. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Senior Leadership Team to manage the overall Efficiency Programme and note that decisions made under this delegated authority will be reported to Cabinet as part of the regular budget monitoring information provided.
14. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and Director of Resources, to authorise the purchase of properties, on the open market, providing value for money is demonstrated and the cost can be contained within existing financial resources of the Authority. This is to ensure that the programme of delivery of affordable homes and homes at social rent is progressed in line with the Cabinet's priorities.

15. The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to serve notices, enter into agreements, give receipts, make adjustments, institute proceedings, and take any action available to the Authority to collect or enforce the collection of Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax from those persons liable.
16. The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to disburse monies from funds and accounts of the Authority as required for the lawful discharge of its functions.
17. Agree that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority receive payment from the Collection Fund in 12 equal instalments on the last working day of each month.
18. Payments from the Collection Fund to be made to the Authority's General Fund in 12 equal instalments on the last working day of each month.

### 3.0 2023-2028 Investment Plan

- 3.1 The Conservative Group recommends the following amendments to the draft 2023-2028 Investment plan for 2023/24.

**Table 4 – Notice of Objection revised 2023/24 Investment Plan**

Project	2023/24 £000
<b>General Fund</b>	
<b>Draft Investment Plan</b>	<b>61,784</b>
Cycle Path Maintenance	87
100 New Bins and side load vehicles	100
40 New Community Notice Boards	60
Pavement and Pothole repair fund	1,000
Remove Trading Company Investment	(1,500)
Remove Carbon Net Zero Investment	(1,000)
Reduce Contingency Budget	(196)
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>60,335</b>
<b>General Fund Financing</b>	
Unsupported Borrowing	(11,577)
Capital Receipts	0
Revenue Contribution (use of reserves)	(500)
Grants and Contributions	(48,207)
<b>Amendments Financed by Capital Receipts:</b>	
Sale of Civic Car	(15)
Sell the Artwork held by the Authority	(36)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(60,335)</b>

### 3.2 Draft Prudential Indicators

There are no changes to the draft capital expenditure Prudential Indicator based on the revised 2023/24 draft Investment Plan.

#### **4.0 Equalities Impact Assessment**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and no negative impacts have been identified.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A – 2023-2028 Revised Draft Investment Plan

This page is intentionally left blank

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 16 March 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 R O'Keefe, M Fox and C Johnson**

##### **North Tyneside council notes:**

That shift work is becoming increasingly common in many industries and often includes late night working, often working after most public transport has finished for the evening.

Many shift workers are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night.

The work our Police and Crime Commissioner has done into trying to address residents' concerns with safety. Including the safer transport app, attracting funding from the Government and investment into the multi-agency security team.

##### **North Tyneside council believes:**

Unite the unions Get Me Home Safely campaign, which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers can get home safely from work at night, is greatly needed and should be supported.

The weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including up-skirting on public transport is appalling and only 2% of victims go on to report sexual harassment on public transport.

##### **North Tyneside council:**

Asks the Licensing committee to explore the possibility of putting a condition in place on licensed premises which requires them when opening late to provide free and safe transport home for their staff.

Calls upon the Mayor to write to NEXUS and the private bus operators to introduce more late night services to get shift workers to and from work.

Write to the Government to ask them to extend the £2 fare offer for buses beyond the end of June and to also provide funding to allow metro to continue the £2 offer which Tyne and Wear councils funded for the first 3 months of the year.

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

**Motion 2 signed by Councillors W Samuel, C Burdis and C Johnson**

**North Tyneside Council notes**

Despite the fact that wholesale gas prices are falling on international markets, the Conservative Government seems intent on allowing the energy price cap to be increased by £500 in April.

**North Tyneside Council believes**

This will cause further hardship for families in North Tyneside who have been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, higher mortgages, and other costs.

**North Tyneside Council calls upon the Mayor to**

write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking him to freeze the price cap at its current level for at least a further six months.

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



### **Motion 3 signed by Councillors L Bartoli, C Johnston and L Bones**

During the Authority's recent budget setting process there was a commitment to have 100 new litter bins across the Borough which should be welcomed because keeping the area clean should always be a top priority for the Authority.

Unfortunately, the extra bins will only help solve the problem of litter if they are regularly emptied, maintained and the area around the bin cleared. Bins can fill up quickly, particularly in the popular tourist locations and can be damaged for a variety of reasons. Providing a simple system for allowing the public to report bins being full or damaged will help the Authority respond quickly and effectively.

Council requests the Mayor to consider introducing a scheme similar to that used by Glasgow City Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council by using existing technology to assist with this reporting process. The scheme would: -

- Attach unique QR code stickers to the bins which can be scanned with a smartphone and will identify the exact location of the bin.
- Link this to the Authority's "Report It" section on its website and if possible provide information on when the bin is next due to be emptied – this will avoid the need to report a bin that is due to be emptied the same or next day.

Residents can then report bins that are damaged, need emptying or the area around them cleaned.

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

#### **Motion 4 signed by Councillors L Bones, O Scargill and C Johnston**

NHS healthcare is at the top of residents' priorities and the Government are committed to reducing NHS waiting lists, with over £3 billion extra per year to help tackle the backlog caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However locally residents are still forced to travel out of North Tyneside to access 24-hour emergency care, which is particularly difficult for residents that do not drive.

North Tyneside Council believes that our residents would receive better healthcare provision within the borough if 24-hour accident and emergency care was re-instated at Rake Lane and the walk-in centre at Battle Hill reopened.

North Tyneside Council notes that it was a conscious decision taken by the NHS trust to relocate these services out of the Borough.

North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to :

- Write to the NHS Trust asking them to set up a taskforce, with local authority involvement, to improve access to emergency care in North Tyneside, with a particular focus on restoring 24-hour accident and emergency at Rake Lane and walk-in services at Battle Hill

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health to commend the additional investment that has been given to clear the NHS waiting lists, and outline our priorities for returning these two care services to North Tyneside.

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

## **Motion 5 signed by Councillors O Scargill, L Bones and L Bartoli**

### **Local Plan Motion**

As reported in the Guardian earlier this year, many local authorities across the country have paused their housebuilding plans following the government's decision to drop mandatory targets. Like Dorset Council, who announced they would be delaying the implementation of their Local Plan last year.

North Tyneside Labour's plan to build 3,000 houses at Rake Lane is incredibly unpopular with local residents, with many raising serious concerns about the impact on traffic congestion (especially in such close proximity to the Dutch-style roundabout), local healthcare services and school places – as well as the environmental impact on the loss of our green space.

Council notes that several local authorities across the country have paused their housebuilding plans.

Council believes the Local Plan is unpopular with local residents, and new homes should be built in appropriate locations, protecting green space at the murton gap.

Council agrees to undertake the preparation of a new Local Plan once a revised NPPF has been published. Council requests the revised local plan explores the possibility to remove the Murton Gap strategic site from the Local Plan, protecting our green space and aligning with residents views.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 16 March 2023

**Title:** North Tyneside Council Pay Policy 2023/24

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Councillor Martin Rankin
<b>Report from Service Area:</b> Resources	
<b>Responsible Officer:</b> Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources	<b>Tel:</b> 0191 643 5701
<b>Wards affected:</b> All	

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Executive Summary:

The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to prepare and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March each year. The Act requires the statement to be approved by full Council. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to set out the Authority's policies on a range of pay matters relating to the workforce, including the level of senior employees' salaries

The Pay Policy has not changed significantly during the last 12 months. The main change is to update the North Tyneside Council Living Wage, which was initially agreed by full Council on 26 November 2020. The pay multiple and the gender pay gap have been calculated as at 31 March 2022.

The Authority has a statutory duty to publish the Pay Policy Statement following the approval by full Council.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council approves the Pay Policy statement for 2023/24 and authorises publication of the Pay Policy.

#### 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 13 January 2023

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report does not directly relate to the priorities in the 2021/25 Our North Tyneside Plan.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 The Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) requires all local authorities to prepare and publish a Pay Policy Statement. This statement must set out each of the Authority’s policies on a range of issues relating to its workforce, including the remuneration of its Chief Officers (as defined for the purposes of preparing a Pay Policy Statement by the Act) and the remuneration of its lowest paid employees. Pay Policy statements must be prepared for each financial year, approved by full Council, and then published.

1.5.3 The Act sets out what must be included in the Pay Policy Statement. In particular, the statement must include:

- The Authority’s definition of “lowest-paid employees” and the reasons for adopting that definition,
- The policy on remuneration of its Chief Officers including remuneration at recruitment, how pay is increased, the use of performance related pay and bonuses, termination payments and access to such information,
- The policy on remuneration of its lowest paid employees, and
- The relationship between the remuneration of senior posts and that of other employees.

In preparing the Pay Policy Statement the Authority must also have regard to the Guidance published by the Secretary of State under the Act.

1.5.4 The Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 follows the approach agreed by full Council in previous years. It takes account of the policies and processes that the Authority already has in place to manage decisions around recruitment, appointment and termination of Chief Officers and the publication of data on senior salaries to comply with the Transparency Code.

1.5.5 The Act requires Members to take a greater role in determining pay by ensuring that decisions in relation to pay are taken by those directly accountable to local people. Along with the Transparency Code, the Act’s provisions are in place to ensure that communities have access to the information they need to determine whether remuneration, particularly senior employee remuneration, is appropriate and commensurate with responsibility. In addition, the Act requires that policies on the pay and reward of the most senior employees are set clearly within the context of the pay of the wider workforce.

1.5.6 Pay Policy Statements and any amendments to them must be considered by a meeting of full Council and cannot be delegated to a committee or sub-committee. All decisions on pay and reward must comply with the current Pay Policy Statement.

1.5.7 The Pay Policy Statement must include information on the Authority’s approach to the remuneration of Chief Officers. Remuneration includes salary (for Chief Officers who are employed) or payment under a contract for services (for Chief Officers who are self-employed), expenses, bonuses, and performance-related pay as well as severance payments.

1.5.8 The Act does not require authorities to use their Pay Policy Statements to publish specific numerical data on pay and reward. However, the Authority does publish data under the Transparency Code as well as the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. Authorities are asked in the Statutory Guidance published under the Act to consider the

opportunity this presents to put that data within the context of the Authority's agreed policies and to provide the public with clear justification of how their money is being used appropriately in the pay and reward of senior staff.

#### Areas of change to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24

1.5.9 The following areas of the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 have been amended:

- The North Tyneside Living Wage agreed at full Council on 26 November 2020 is no longer in payment as nationally negotiated payrates from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 superseded the pay rate agreed. When the outcome of the national pay negotiations for the pay scale from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 is known, the Authority aims to continue to ensure the lowest point on the pay scale is at least the Real Living Wage of £10.90 per hour. If required, this would be considered by full Council and paid by way of a supplement.
- The agreement for the pay award for 2022/2023 did however confirm that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 Scale Point (SCP) 1 will no longer be in use. SCP 1 is currently in use as the Grade 1 of the Authority's pay and grading structure. Therefore, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 Grade 1 will no longer be in use.
- Where special severance payments are made, this is done in accordance with the Statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England published in May 2022.
- The median average salary has moved from £25,770 per annum to £27,852. The pay multiple when rounded is 1:6

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

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

##### Option 1

Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24

##### Option 2

Not approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

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

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The proposed Pay Policy Statement is a representation of how the Authority manages its current pay decisions and complies with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

#### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix: North Tyneside Council Pay Policy Statement 2023/24.

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

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources, Tel **019 643 5701**

Lisa Rankin, HR Manager Policy and Practice, Tel 07967 463036

## **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) Localism Act 2011
- (2) Openness and accountability in local pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act – Department for Communities and Local Government February 2012 and the Supplementary Guidance published in February 2013.
- (3) Transparency Code – Department for Communities and Local Government February 2015.
- (4) Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the public sector March 2011.
- (5) Localism Act: Pay Policy Statements for Local Authority Chief Executives – Local Government Association and Association of Local Authorities Chief Executives (ALACE) November 2011.
- (6) Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- (7) Statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England published in May 2022.

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

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

- 2.1.1 The Authority must ensure that what is agreed in its Pay Policy Statement is applied in practice and where there are financial thresholds these must be adhered to. The Medium Term Financial Plan includes assumptions regarding the national pay settlements, with any variations to be reported to Cabinet and Finance Sub-committee as they arise during 2023/24.

### **2.2 Legal**

In accordance with section 38 of The Localism Act 2011 the Authority is required to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year and must be approved by a resolution of full Council by the 31 March of each year and thereafter published by the Authority.

Section 42 of the 2011 Act is clear that the functions that relate to the approval and publication of the Pay Policy Statement is a matter for full Council and is not something that Council can delegate to a Committee.

For the purposes of Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011 a “Chief Officer” is defined as meaning the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Statutory Chief Officers, non-statutory Chief Officers, and Deputy Chief Officers.



## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The relevant Cabinet Member and Elected Mayor and Senior Leadership Team have been briefed on the proposed Pay Policy Statement. The trades unions have also been consulted.

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

The Pay Policy Statement is a description of what the Authority applies currently as part of its Constitution, and through HR policy and process. All have been through agreed consultation channels with managers and recognised trades unions.

As part of the requirements of the Localism Act any decisions on the pay and terms and conditions of employment of the workforce must be reflected in the annual pay policy statement. National agreements cover the pay and terms and conditions of employment of the workforce and any proposed changes to these agreements would be shared and consulted on with the trades unions as part of an ongoing dialogue to comply with appropriate legal obligations on consultation.

## **2.4 Human rights**

The proposals in this report support the Authority's adherence to the principles set out in the Human Rights Act.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

2.5.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires a Pay Policy Statement to be prepared for each financial year and defines the areas to be covered in the statement. The pay scale for Green Book employees is set a national level by a collective agreement and implemented locally through agreement at full Council.

2.5.2 The proposals in this report support the Authority's approach to equality and diversity. The Authority's pay and grading structures are underpinned by job evaluation schemes.

2.5.3 The use of a job evaluation scheme provides a systematic way of comparing and assessing individual jobs in an objective way to make sure that there is a fair and equal pay system in place which does not discriminate between male and female employees.

2.5.4 Tackling low pay continues to be a priority for the Authority and measures have been implemented to support this over recent years via the payment of The North Tyneside Council Living Wage. This is paid in cases where national pay rates fall short of the "Real Living Wage" as set by the Living Wage Foundation. An equality impact assessment was undertaken for this at the time when last implemented in 2021.

The Authority currently has a North Tyneside Council pay scale for Green Book posts which ensures the lowest point on the pay scale is at least the rate of the "Real Living Wage". When the outcome of the national pay negotiations for the pay scale from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 is known the Authority aims to continue to ensure the lowest point on the pay scale is at least the Real Living Wage which will be £10.90 per hour in April 2023.

## **2.6 Risk management**

2.6.1 The Proposals in Pay Policy Statement reflect the application of the Authority's job evaluation schemes and pay and grading structures. Any deviation from this could destabilise the pay and grading structure leading to inconsistencies and a risk of further equal pay claims against the Authority.

2.6.2 Risks around pay and grading are managed through corporate risk management responsibilities.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

The proposals in this report do not relate to crime and disorder.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising directly 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
- Assitant Chief Executive  X

# Pay Policy 2023-24



**Date:** March 2023 **Author:** HR Manager Policy and Practice



## **1. Introduction**

This is North Tyneside Council's (the Authority's) annual Pay Policy for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The purpose of the statement is to set the Authority's policies on a range of pay matters relating to the workforce. The Authority understands the importance of openness and transparency in setting pay which is fair, consistent and equitable across the workforce. It is also vital that the Authority can demonstrate value for money, particularly around the role that senior leaders play in the organisation.

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Authority is required to publish the pay policy for each financial year detailing:

1. The Authority's definition of lowest paid employees
2. The relationship between the remuneration of senior posts and that of other employees.

In determining the pay and remuneration of all its employees the Authority will comply with all relevant employment legislation including the Equality Act 2010, the Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 and where relevant the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

This pay policy statement has been approved at a meeting of full Council on 16 March 2023 and is available on the Authority's website. In line with the local government transparency code 2015 the Authority also publishes information related to the organisation and the salaries of senior posts on its website.

## **2. Definitions of senior posts and lowest paid employees**

For the purposes of this statement, the Authority considers its senior posts to be those with the definition of "Chief Officer" as set out in Section 43 of the Localism Act 2011.

A "Chief Officer" is defined as:

- the Head of Paid Service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- the Monitoring Officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
- a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act; or
- a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act; or
- a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act

During 2022/23, the lowest paid employees were defined by the Authority as those employed on Grades 1 and 2 (excluding apprentices) as these are the first two grades on the Authority's pay and grading structure for roles covered by "Green Book" terms and conditions, see section 3.

From 1st April 2023 Grade 1 will no longer be in use, following changes by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services "Green Book" terms and conditions (see section 4 for further details), and therefore from this date the lowest paid employees will be defined as those on Grades 2 and 3.

### **3. How pay is determined in North Tyneside Council**

As stated in the Authority's Constitution, the power to determine terms and conditions in North Tyneside Council rests with full Council, unless determined nationally as detailed below.

The Authority uses nationally negotiated pay spines as the basis for the majority its local pay structures. The pay scales currently in use in the Authority are set by the following:

- The National Joint Council for Local Government Services via the "Green Book". Green Book pay scales are negotiated nationally. Grading structures, which include those for senior posts, are then applied to this and implemented locally in the Authority following approval by full Council. See section 4 for further information.
- The Soubury Committee via the "Blue Book" for posts such as Educational Psychologists and School Improvement professionals.
- The Joint Negotiating Committee for Craft Workers via the "Red Book"
- The Secretary of State via the National School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (Burgundy Book) and adopted through the Centrally Employed Teachers' Pay Policy for the small number of teachers employed by the Authority.
- The Authority's Chief Executive is paid in accordance with the terms of the national conditions of service covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives. (Please note pay arrangements for senior posts/Chief Officers are detailed in Section 7.)
- All other Chief Officers are covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities. (Please note pay arrangements for senior posts/Chief Officers are detailed in Section 7.)
- In addition, we have local pay spine for Apprentices, the North Tyneside Council Apprentice Pay Model, which is approved by full Council.

Employees on the above terms and conditions will receive a pay award where this is negotiated nationally by the relevant negotiating committee or, in the case of Apprentices, where agreed by full Council.

Any employee who has transferred into the Authority under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 will be paid according to their specific terms and conditions.

#### **4. The Green Book Terms and Conditions**

The majority of North Tyneside Council employees are covered by the Green Book terms and conditions; the current pay scale is contained in Appendix A. There will be a new pay scale effective from 1 April 2023, but this has not yet been agreed. Negotiations at a national level are continuing but agreement has not yet been reached. Any increase will be back dated to 1 April 2023 when agreed.

The agreement for the pay award for 2022/2023 did however confirm that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 SCP 1 will no longer be in use. SCP 1 is currently in use as the Grade 1 of the council's pay and grading structure. Therefore, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 Grade 1 will no longer be in use.

As above the Authority has a grading structure approved by full Council, that is applies to the Green Book pay spine. Each grade consists of spinal column points (SCP). Grades 3-11 have multiple SCPs to allow for incremental progression. All other grades are spot salaries with no incremental progression.

For Grades 3 to 11 new appointments are made at the bottom of the grade with incremental progression through the grade on an annual basis until the top SCP of the grade is reached. In exceptional circumstances, and only if supported by clear objective evidence, appointment can be made to the mid or top of the grade. This could be appropriate for example where the person has directly applicable experience in a similar post.

#### **5. Process for grading posts**

In order to determine which grade a new post should be established on, for posts covered by Green Book terms and conditions and also those covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives and Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers in Local Authorities, the Authority uses a job evaluation scheme. This scheme is implemented via a locally agreed Job Evaluation Process which was agreed with full council prior to implementation.

Under the Job Evaluation Scheme jobs up to and including Grade 11 are operated via the Gauge System whereby posts are evaluated based on the knowledge, skills, demands and responsibilities required.

Where posts have been established via the Job Evaluation Scheme at Grades 12 and above, these are also evaluated using the HAY Evaluation Methodology to determine the final grade. This further considers the size and responsibility of the job role.

Salaries for the posts are assigned using the North Tyneside Pay Scale which is set out in Appendix A.

## **6. The North Tyneside Council Living Wage**

Tackling low pay continues to be a priority for the Authority and measures have been implemented to support this over recent years. The Authority currently has a North Tyneside Council pay scale for Green Book posts which ensures the lowest point on the pay scale is at least the rate of the “Real Living Wage” as set by the Living Wage Foundation at the time of implementation. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 this was £9.50 per hour.

When the outcome of the national pay negotiations for the pay scale from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 is known the Authority aims to continue to ensure the lowest point on the pay scale is at least the Real Living Wage, which will be £10.90 per hour in April 2023.

## **7. Remuneration of senior posts – Chief Officers (as defined under the Localism Act 2011)**

As above the Authority’s Chief Executive is paid in accordance with the terms of the national conditions of service covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives. All other Chief Officers are covered by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities.

As set out above, all salary packages will accord with the requirements of the Authority’s pay and grading structures and will depend on the outcome of an evaluation of a post’s job role and responsibilities. The senior pay scale, which includes Chief Officers, is set out in Appendix B.

Chief Officers can also be engaged under a contract for services as a contractor. The engagement of Chief Officers under a contract for services is the responsibility of the Authority’s Cabinet.

In the procurement of a Chief Officer under a contract for services Cabinet will:

- comply with the Authority's Standing Orders in relation to contracts and any other requirements of the public procurement regime; and
- ensure that any engagement will not cost more than the annual salary, with the relevant on-costs, of employing a Chief Officer in that role.

Where a Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive or Director is engaged under a contract for services by Cabinet, the Council will be informed of these arrangements.

## **8. Appointment of a Chief Officer**

The appointment of individuals to the posts of Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Director is the responsibility of the Authority's Appointments and Disciplinary Committee. With committee approval, at appointment Chief Officers are appointed to the evaluated grade which consists of a spot salary. There is no incremental progression for a Chief Officer.

## **9. Increases and additions to a Chief Officers' remuneration**

Increases to a Chief Officers remuneration will only apply in the following circumstances:

- a pay award agreed through national pay bargaining arrangements;
- a change to the role and its responsibilities warrants a change in grade through the agreed job evaluation process;
- there is evidence of a recruitment and/or retention problem, at which point the Market Supplement Policy, which is applicable to all employees, will be applied in order to determine the appropriate payment;
- temporary additional duties and responsibilities warrant an honorarium or ex-gratia payment in line with agreed policy for all employees;
- where a Chief Officer is engaged under a contact for services in accordance with provisions of the contract and the public procurement regime.

## **10. Payments to Chief Officers for election duties**

Fees for local election duties undertaken by Chief Officers on behalf of the Authority are included in their salaries.

Fees for the Returning Officer and Deputies and other electoral duties are identified and paid separately for elections to Parliament and other electoral processes such as referenda.



## **11. Performance related pay and bonuses for Chief Officers**

The Authority does not apply any performance related pay scheme or bonuses for its Chief Officers.

## **12. Termination payments**

The Authority has agreed policies and procedures in place that apply to all employees, including Chief Officers, leaving the Authority's employment including by way of early retirement (including on the grounds of efficiency of service) and redundancy (voluntary or otherwise). These policies are reviewed on a regular basis and consulted upon with trades unions. The North Tyneside Council redundancy scheme is not contractual and is varied from time to time.

Chief Officers who cease to hold office or be employed by the Authority will receive payments calculated using the same principles as any other employee. This is based on their contract of employment, nationally agreed terms and conditions and existing Authority policies.

Where special severance payments are made this is done in accordance with the Statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England published in May 2022. As such any payments are considered and approved by the Authority's Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Chief Officers who cease to be engaged under a contract for services will receive any monies due to them in accordance with the provisions of the contract for services.

## **13. Re-engagement of Chief Officers previously employed by the Authority.**

Chief Officers who leave the Authority on the grounds of redundancy will not be re-employed by the Authority in any capacity without the approval of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee.

## **14. Contracts for Services and IR 35**

In some circumstances, for example where there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a substantive post, the Authority will consider if it is necessary to engage individuals under a 'contract for service'.

These are sourced through an appropriate procurement process, ensuring that the Authority is able to demonstrate the maximum value for money in securing the relevant service.

In accordance with the IR35 rules which determine off-payroll working rules for clients, workers and their intermediaries, where a worker is engaged via an intermediary personal service company, the responsibility for assessing their income tax and national insurance liability lies with the Authority, along with responsibility for deducting and paying the correct income tax.

In the Mini-Budget of September 2022 the government announced plans to repeal the IR35 reforms from April 2023 however this decision was later reversed.

### **15. The relationship between Chief Officers and lowest paid employees**

The grade, and therefore the pay, for the Authority's lowest paid employees (who are all covered by Green Book terms and conditions) and that of the Authority's Chief Officers is determined by the job evaluation process.

The pay multiple for the Authority is determined by comparing the remuneration for the highest paid employee against that of the median average earnings for the organisation as a whole. The pay multiple for the Authority is 1:6. This is based on median earnings of £27, 852. The pay multiple was 1:6 last year.

### **16. Gender pay gap**

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 came into force on 31 March 2017. Public Sector employers with over 250 employees must report the following gender pay gap information:

- The overall 'mean' and 'median' gender pay gaps and the 'mean' and 'median' bonus pay gaps;
- The number of male and female employees in each pay quartile; and
- The proportion of male and female employees in receipt of a bonus.

The report on the above data is included at Appendix C.

### **17. Legislative changes**

#### **Reform of exit pay for local government workers**

As part of the wider reform of severance payments across the public sector in May 2022 the Government introduced reforms of exit payment terms for local government workers via the statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England. Special Severance Payments

include a range of payments such as discretionary redundancy payments, pension strain payments and settlement agreements. The statutory guidance sets out the government's view that special severance payments should only be considered in exceptional circumstances and the criteria for local authorities to apply when considering making these payments, including the disclosure and reporting requirements.

## **18. Review and Publication**

This policy statement will be reviewed annually and, following approval by full Council, published on the Authority's website together with the Gender Pay Gap report.

## Appendix A

### North Tyneside Council Pay Scale April 2022

SCP	Salary	Salary Scale
1	20258.00	Grade 1
2	20441.00	Grade 2
3	20812.00	Grade 3
4	21189.00	
5	21575.00	Grade 4
6	21968.00	
7	22369.00	Grade 5
8	22777.00	
9	23194.00	
10	23247.00	Not Used
11	23673.00	
12	24496.00	Grade 6
13	24948.00	
14	25409.00	
15	25878.00	
16	26357.00	Not Used
17	26845.00	
18	27344.00	
19	27852.00	Grade 7
20	28371.00	
21	28900.00	
22	29439.00	
23	30151.00	Grade 8
24	31099.00	
25	32020.00	
26	32909.00	
27	33820.00	
28	34723.00	Grade 9
29	35411.00	
30	36298.00	
31	37261.00	
32	38296.00	
33	39493.00	Grade 10
34	40478.00	

35	<b>41496.00</b>	
36	<b>42503.00</b>	
37	<b>43516.00</b>	
38	<b>44539.00</b>	Grade 11
39	<b>45495.00</b>	
40	<b>46549.00</b>	
41	<b>47573.00</b>	
42	<b>48587.00</b>	
43	<b>49590.00</b>	
44	<b>50431.00</b>	Grade 12
45	<b>51977.00</b>	
46	<b>53637.00</b>	
47	<b>55297.00</b>	Grade 13
48	<b>57187.00</b>	
49	<b>60166.00</b>	Grade 14
50	<b>63430.00</b>	Grade 15
51	<b>66979.00</b>	Grade 16
52	<b>71103.00</b>	Grade 17
53	<b>75628.00</b>	Grade 18
54	<b>80953.00</b>	Grade 19
55	<b>88336.00</b>	Grade 20
56	<b>91900.00</b>	Grade 21
57	<b>95637.00</b>	Grade 22
58	<b>99414.00</b>	Grade 23
59	<b>103646.00</b>	Grade 24
60	<b>108106.00</b>	Grade 25
61	<b>112848.00</b>	Grade 26
62	<b>134747.00</b>	Not Used
63	<b>162419.00</b>	Grade 28

## Appendix B

### North Tyneside Council Senior Pay Scale

<b>Job Role</b>	<b>Grade (Spinal Column Point)</b>	<b>Salary (per annum)</b>
Chief Executive	Grade 28 (63)	£162,419
Assistant Chief Executive and Directors	Grade 23 (58) to 26 (61)	£99,414 - £112,848
Heads of Service and Senior Managers	Grade 12 (44) to Grade 22(57)	£50,431 - £95,637

## Appendix C

### Gender Pay Report

#### Introduction

All public sector employers are required by law to publish information every year about gender pay gaps within their workforce. The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 came into force on 31 March 2017.

The regulations require employers to publish a report based on a snapshot date of 31 March. Employers have 1 year in which to publish the report.

The report below sets out North Tyneside Council's calculations in relation to:

- The mean gender pay gap in hourly pay
- The median gender pay gap in hourly pay
- The proportion of males and females in each pay quartile

The mean is the average hourly rate of pay, calculated by adding the hourly pay rate for employees then dividing by the number of employees.

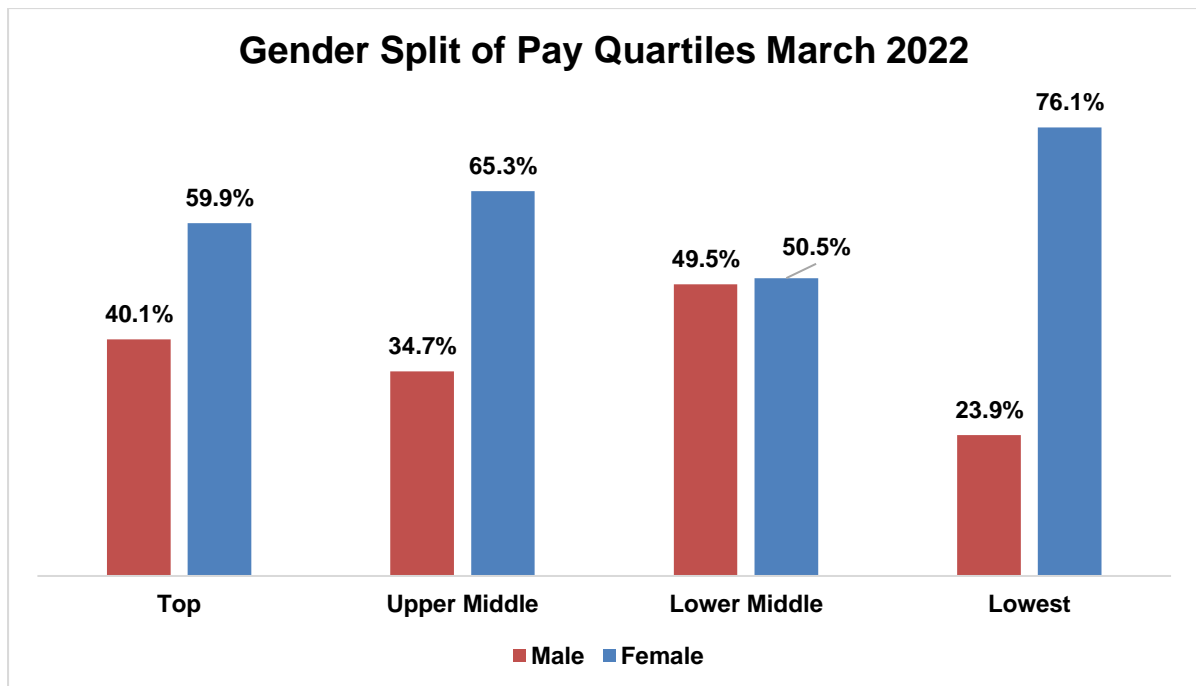
The median is the middle hourly pay rate when the pay rates are arranged in order from lowest to highest.

The table below shows overall mean and median gender pay gap based on hourly rates of pay. The Authority does not pay any bonuses.

#### The gender pay gap as at 31 March 2022

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Median</b>
Hourly fixed pay	4.94%	0.00%
Bonus paid	N/A	N/A

## The proportion of males and females in each quartile



The Authority's gender pay gap information is published on the Government website ([gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk](https://gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk)) and will be supported by a narrative explaining the position in the Authority and an action plan to address the gender pay gap.



## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 16 March 2023

### Title: Designation of Monitoring Officer and Amendment of the Officer Delegation Scheme

<b>Portfolio(s):</b>	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>
Law and Democracy	Dame Norman Redfearn DBE
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	Resources
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

Council is requested to designate Mr Stephen Ballantyne as the Authority's Monitoring Officer in the light of his appointment as the Head of Law with effect from 1 April 2023.

As a result of Mr Ballantyne's appointment, it is necessary to amend the Officer Delegation Scheme so that Head of Law becomes responsible for the exercise of the functions set out in the Appendix to this report.

The responsibility for the designation of Monitoring Officer and the amendments to the Officer Delegation Scheme are matters reserved to full Council.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) Designate Stephen Ballantyne as the Monitoring Officer for the Authority with effect from 1 April 2023;
- (2) Agree that authority be given to the Head of Law to exercise the functions set out in the Appendix to this report with effect from 1 April 2023 and that the Officer Delegation Scheme be amended accordingly, and
- (3) Agree that the Head of Law be authorised to make the consequential amendments to the Authority's Constitution and associated documents should full Council agree recommendations (1) and (2).

### **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 9 December 2022.

### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

The appointment to the role of Monitoring Officer complies with the prevailing legislation and in turn supports all the priorities within the Council Plan.

### **1.5 Information:**

#### **1.5.1 Background**

##### Designation of a Monitoring Officer

1.5.2 The Authority has a duty under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to designate an officer of the Authority to be known as the Monitoring Officer. The designation of Monitoring Officer has been held by the Assistant Chief Executive since 17 March 2022.

1.5.3 As a result of Stephen Ballantyne's appointment as Head of Law with effect from 1 April 2023 it is proposed that he be designated the Authority's Monitoring Officer with effect from that date.

1.5.4 It is proposed that the existing Deputy Monitoring Officers will remain in place and will continue to provide support and assistance to the Monitoring Officer. The designation of Deputy Monitoring Officer(s) is a matter for the Monitoring Officer.

##### Amendment of the Officer Delegation Scheme

1.5.5 It is also proposed that Mr Ballantyne as the Head of Law be given authority to exercise the functions set out in the Appendix to the report. Prior to March 2022 those delegations rested with the Director of Law and Governance. Following a review of the senior management structure of the Authority undertaken in March 2022, the role of Director of Law and Governance was deleted, and a new Head of Law role created. It is appropriate for the delegations that had previously been held by the Director of Law and Governance to now sit with the new Head of Law as amended.

### **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

#### Option 1

To agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

#### Option 2

Not to agree to the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

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

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority must designate an officer to be its Monitoring Officer and making the proposed designation will comply with legislative requirements. In addition, the proposed delegations that will sit with the Head of Law are those that are appropriate for the Authority's Chief Legal Officer.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix: Proposed delegations to be exercised by the Head of Law

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources tel. 07581 045 261

Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer tel. 0191 643 5724

John Barton, Team Manager Corporate and Regulatory Team, Legal Services  
tel. 0191 643 5354

## **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:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

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

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

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

The Authority is required to designate an officer of the Authority as its Monitoring Officer pursuant to section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with responsibility for performing the duties imposed by sections 5 and 5A of the 1989 Act. This is a matter for full Council.

The Officer Delegation Scheme forms part of the Authority's Constitution. Therefore, any changes that are to be made to the Scheme or Constitution is a matter for full Council.

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

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The Elected Mayor and Cabinet Members have been consulted on the proposals as have the Senior Management Team.

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

The appointment to the Head of Law was made following a recruitment exercise carried out in accordance with the Authority's Officer Employment Rules of Procedure.

#### **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**

Any failure to designate an officer as Monitoring Officer could result in the Authority being challenged for failing to meet its statutory duties.

#### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

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

#### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no crime and disorder implications 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

## 15. Head Law

The Head of Law has managerial and professional responsibility for the service area and is the Solicitor to the Authority and the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

The service, which provides a direct service to the public and supports all service departments in the effective consideration of formal complaints, maintains the corporate governance arrangements in the Authority and standards in decision-making, maintains and deals with searches of the local land charges register and other property related enquiries, provides legal advice and assistance to the Authority, provides direct administrative support for the Authority's elected members and registers births, deaths, still-births, marriages and civil partnerships.

The responsibilities and powers of the Authority's Monitoring Officer derive from legislation contained in section 5 and section 5A of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and provide that the designated Monitoring Officer must report to the relevant body any proposal, decision or omission which is likely to be unlawful, or any finding of maladministration by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

The Head of Law will also be the Proper Officer in accordance with the Local Government Acts, (except where signified under other officer delegations).

In addition to the general delegations set out in section 5 of the Scheme, the Head of Law is authorised to exercise the following specific functions:

### **Authorised officers**

LG1 To authorise the relevant officers of the Authority for the purposes of any matter coming within appropriate legislation, bye-laws, regulations and orders.

### **Births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships**

LG2 To give approval to premises for the purposes of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and to give views on the suitability of premises for reasons other than reasons of fire safety and health and safety, with the Superintendent Registrar being authorised to act in the absence of the Head of Law or if the Head of Law should be unable to act for any other reason.

LG3 To determine the level of the fee for applications for the grant or renewal of approved premises status, in consultation with the Superintendent Registrar and the other Authority and statutory officers to be involved in the determination of applications; and to annually review the fee to take into account the official rate of inflation and the fee levels in other Tyne and Wear Council areas.

LG4 To determine discretionary conditions to be attached to grants or renewals of approved premises status.

- LG5 To take action to revoke any approval of approved premises status.
- LG6 To manage the scheme covering the registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- Child and adult protection**
- LG7 To institute legal proceedings and make all necessary applications under the Children Act 1989 and Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- LG8 In consultation with the Director of Services for Children to make wardship applications to the High Court and any applications for variation, discharge or revocation of any such order.
- LG9 To deal with all matters in connection with requests for disclosure of documentation etc. made in criminal proceedings where public interest immunity is a consideration.
- LG10 To prepare and seal change of name deeds on behalf of children in the care of the Authority and file appropriate documents with the Court.
- LG11 To represent approved social workers in court proceedings, except in such cases where the Head of Law determines that there is a conflict of interest (or potential for conflict of interest to arise) between the approved social worker and the Authority.
- LG12 To apply to the Court of Protection for appointment and to act as deputy for property and financial affairs and for personal welfare, including treatment in relation to individuals.
- Corporate and statutory social services complaints**
- LG13 To administer the operation of the Authority's corporate and 'social services' complaints procedures.
- LG14 To discontinue the consideration of any complaint under the Authority's procedure in situations where it appears that the complaint is solely an appeal against a decision dictated by Authority policy, properly established and administered, or by statute.
- LG15 To appoint panellists to serve on, and make all necessary arrangements to convene and clerk, Complaint Review Panels established to consider complaints under The Local Authority Social Services Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 and The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedures (England) Regulations 2006.
- Counsel's opinion and representation**
- LG16 To obtain Counsel's opinion where it is considered to be in the Authority's interests, and to instruct Counsel to represent the Authority in any court or tribunal or other appropriate circumstance.

### **Court and tribunal proceedings**

- LG17 To bring all appropriate legal proceedings under all relevant legislation.
- LG18 Apply to the Magistrate' Court under section 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 for a closure order.
- LG19 To make any application or defend any application or appeal, or take any other steps as required under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing and Act 2014.
- LG20 To exercise discretion and to institute proceedings (both civil and criminal) on behalf of the Authority in the appropriate court or tribunal, including any steps in relation to recovery, enforcement or bankruptcy proceedings.
- LG21 To exercise discretion to appeal against decisions of all courts and tribunals.
- LG22 To exercise discretion to defend proceedings and resist appeals in all courts and tribunals.
- LG23 To exercise discretion, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to settle court and tribunal proceedings or any other potential proceedings.
- LG24 To authorise staff pursuant to section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to appear on behalf of the Authority in proceedings before a Magistrates Court where those staff members would otherwise not have rights of audience before the Court.

### **Deceased person's estate**

- LG25 To release property exceeding £200 in value but not exceeding £5,000 in value which is held by the Authority on behalf of the estate of a deceased person to entitled persons without requiring the production of a grant of probate of the will or letters of administration.
- LG26 To serve any notices which may be required under the provisions of the Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984 subject to consultation with the Director of Environment.

### **Education appeals**

- LG27 To appoint panels of persons from whom Education Appeals Panel can be constituted.
- LG28 To constitute and to act as Clerk to Education Appeals Panels to consider admission appeals and exclusion reviews in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education Act 2002 as amended.

**Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman**

LG29 In consultation with the Mayor and the Chief Executive to consider any report by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman which finds that injustice has been caused to a person aggrieved in consequence of maladministration by the Authority and to notify the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman of the action which the Authority proposes to take.

(Note - Copies of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's report and response of the Authority will be circulated to all Members of the Council).

**Land use and ownership**

LG30 To make requests for information relating to land use and ownership under section 16(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

LG31 To serve notices under section 146 of the Law and Property Act 1925 (notice before forfeiture requiring breach of covenant to be remedied).

**Mayor and Members – conferences**

LG32 To approve attendances at conferences for the Mayor and Elected Members.

**Monitoring Officer**

LG33 As Monitoring Officer, and in consultation with the Chief Executive, to determine the appropriateness of petitions in accordance with the Authority's Petitions Scheme.

LG34 In consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Task Group, to make minor changes to the Constitution and its associated documents to reflect organisational or legislative change when the power remains unaltered.

LG35 To make any textual or grammatical corrections to the Constitution and its associated documents.

LG36 To act as the Proper Officer to receive and acknowledge receipt of complaints of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members in accordance with the Authority's adopted arrangements.

LG37 a) To review complaints received in respect of any alleged breach by any elected or co-opted Member of the Council of the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members and determine, in consultation with the Independent Person:

i) whether the allegation, if proven, would constitute a failure to observe the Code of Conduct; and



- ii) if it would constitute such a failure, determine (applying the Authority's adopted assessment criteria), whether the complaint should be investigated or referred for local resolution, and following such determination to refer the complaint for either purpose.
  - b) To refer the review of any such complaint received to the Standards Committee where the Monitoring Officer considers it inappropriate for him/her to take the decision as to whether a complaint should be accepted as a complaint and/or investigated or referred for informal resolution.
  - c) To determine requests for anonymity received from a complainant in relation to a complaint that a Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.
  - d) Where a request for anonymity has been granted, to determine when the identity of the complainant will be provided to a Member who is the subject of a complaint that he/she has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.
- LG38 To undertake informal/local resolution with respect to complaints that a Member has failed to comply with Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members, in consultation with the Independent Person and/or the Chair of Standards Committee as appropriate in accordance with the Authority's adopted arrangements.
- LG39 To appoint an Investigating Officer to investigate a complaint that a Member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.
- LG40 To submit the report of the Investigating Officer where no breach of the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members has been found, or where breach has been found but informal resolution of the complaint is inappropriate or has not proved possible, to the Standards Committee.
- LG41 To undertake, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, the pre-hearing process in advance of a hearing of a complaint by the Standards Committee in accordance with the authority's adopted arrangements, and to make all arrangements associated with the administration of such hearings.
- LG42 To receive and if appropriate accept, in accordance with the authority's adopted arrangements, any request from a Member subject to a decision of the Standards Committee where breach of the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members has been found, and to refer the decision to the Independent Person of another authority for review.

LG43 To provide reports to the Standards Committee in relation to the number and nature of complaints received, advice on the progress of any investigations and to advise the committee of matters where training or other action may lead to the promotion or maintenance of high standards of conduct by the authority's elected or co-opted Members.

LG44 To undertake any other necessary or appropriate actions to facilitate the administration of the authority's adopted arrangements in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

LG45 To undertake, in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Chair of the Standards Committee, reviews of assessment decisions where the complainant is dissatisfied with the initial decision of the Monitoring Officer not to refer a complaint for investigation.

LG46 To refer the report of the Investigating Officer which identifies a breach of the Code of Conduct, where informal/local resolution of a complaint is unsuccessful, to the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee for a formal hearing and determination.

**Parent Governor Representatives**

LG47 To appoint Parent Governor representatives to local authority committees dealing with education as set-out in the Education Act 1996 Section 499 and Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

**Planning**

LG48 In consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Planning Committee to:

- a) serve, vary or withdraw Planning Enforcement Notices;
- b) serve, vary or withdraw Stop Notices;
- c) serve, vary or withdraw notices requiring the proper maintenance of waste land or buildings;
- d) serve, vary or withdraw Breach of Conditions Notices;
- e) serve, vary or withdraw Planning Contravention Notices;
- f) serve, vary or withdraw Temporary Stop Notices;
- g) serve, vary or withdraw Advertisement Discontinuance Notices;
- h) serve, vary or withdraw Advertisement Action Notices;

- i) serve, vary or withdraw Advertisement Removal and Defacement Notices;
- j) serve, vary or withdraw Building Preservation Notice;
- k) serve, vary or withdraw Listed Building Enforcement Notice;
- l) serve, vary or withdraw Repair Notices pursuant to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended);
- m) serve, vary or withdraw Urgent Work Notices pursuant to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended);
- n) seek injunction with regard to unauthorised works or uses to listed buildings/buildings in a conservation area;
- o) instigate prosecution proceedings against non-compliance in relation to all notices and injunctions listed above;
- p) make applications to the Magistrates Court to apply for a Planning Enforcement Order in relation to any act of concealment of a breach of planning control;
- q) take all forms of enforcement and proceedings in respect of contraventions of hazardous substances control under powers contained in the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990;
- r) make and confirm Tree Preservation Orders where there have been no objections to the order;
- s) undertake all forms of enforcement and other proceedings in respect of unauthorised works to or the felling of protected trees.
- t) To revoke tree preservation orders in the following circumstances:
  - A new tree preservation order has replaced an existing tree preservation order; or
  - All trees within the tree preservation order have been felled and not replaced.
- u) To vary tree preservation orders in the following circumstances:
  - A tree or trees within a tree preservation order have been felled; or
  - A tree or trees have been planted to replace a tree or trees felled.

LG49 To issue decision notices on applications for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

LG50 In consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee to authorise applications to the Magistrates' Court for orders in respect of buildings considered to be dangerous to persons in the street or in such buildings and to issue notices to expedite the carrying out of appropriate remedial measures to buildings considered to be in a dilapidated or derelict condition under the appropriate provisions of the Building Act 1984 and other relevant legislation.

LG51 In consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee to serve notices where considered appropriate under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring steps to be taken to improve the condition of a property and/or land in its curtilage.

### **Procurement**

LG52 In consultation with any of the Authority's representatives on the North Eastern Procurement Organisation to accept tenders obtained on the Authority's behalf by the North Eastern Procurement Organisation.

### **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act**

LG53 To act as the Authority's Senior Responsible Officer under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 and be responsible for maintaining effective procedures on behalf of the Authority under this Act. Such procedures to include the appointment of authorising officers, the maintenance of a list of authorising officers, the maintenance of a register of authorisations and ensuring appropriate training provision. A report to be submitted to Cabinet annually on the operation of a RIPA policy and to the Regulation and Review Committee at least annually on the Authority's use of the powers.

### **Right to buy and housing defects**

LG54 To serve all notices on behalf of the Authority under Part V of the Housing Act 1985 and to take all necessary action in connection therewith in connection with tenants right to buy.

LG55 In consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Resources determine the area and curtilage of dwellings to be conveyed to tenants exercising the Right to Buy under the Housing Act 1985 (as amended), in accordance with legislation and any scheme laid down by the Authority.

LG56 In consultation with the Director of Resources to determine applications for the sale of the freehold reversion of Authority flats where both the tenants in the property are exercising their Right to Buy their respective leasehold interest.

LG57 In consultation with the Director of Resources to take all necessary action with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the Housing Defects Act 1984 and orders made thereunder.

LG58 In consultation with the Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member

for Housing to approve all valuations for Right to Buy and to exercise any discretionary powers of the Authority in relation thereto.

**War charities**

LG59 To deal with all matters in connection with the registration of war charities.

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Hedgerows Regulations 1997**

LG60 In consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to authorise the making of “legal event” modification orders under section 53(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which are consequential on events listed in section 53(3)(a) of the Act and take effect on being made, namely the coming into operation of any enactment or instrument, or any other event, whereby:

- a) A highway shown or required to be shown in the map and statement has been authorised to be stopped up, diverted, widened or extended;
- b) A highway shown or required to be shown in the map and statement as a highway of a particular description has ceased to be a highway of that description; or
- c) A new right of way has been created over land in an area to which the map relates, being a right of way such that the land over which the right subsists is a public path.

LG61 In consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to make limestone pavement orders under section 34(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

LG62 In consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to exercise powers relating to the protection of important hedgerows under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

This page is intentionally left blank

## North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 16 March 2023

### Title: Review of Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Elected Mayor Law and Democracy	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Dame Norma Redfearn DBE
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer Tel: (0191) 643 5724
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

Council is requested to review the allocation of seats to political groups following notification of the formation of a new political group, the Independent Group.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) Approve the revised allocations of seats to political groups as shown in the Appendix to this report.
- (2) Agree that the Leaders of the political groups will inform the Monitoring Officer of their respective group's nominations of Members to each of the Committees of the Authority by 12 noon on Friday 17 March 2023.

##### 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 13 February 2023.

##### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the 'Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025' priorities.

##### 1.5 Information:

###### 1.5.1 Background

- 1.5.2 Council at its Annual Meeting on 19 May 2022 agreed the structure of committees for the 2022/23 municipal year, allocated seats to political groups based political proportionality and appointed members to committees.

- 1.5.3 On 8 February 2023 the Assistant Chief Executive, as Monitoring Officer, received notification of the formation of a new political group called the 'Independent Group' comprising of Councillor Pamela McIntyre, Councillor Judith Wallace and Councillor George Westwater, with Councillor Wallace being the Group Leader.
- 1.5.4 The notification of a new political group, coming over one month after the previous review of seat allocations, triggers a review of the representation of the different political groups on politically balanced committees under regulation 17 of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

#### Review of the allocation of seats to political groups

- 1.5.5 Full Council has a duty to allocate seats on its Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups in accordance with the principles of political proportionality which are set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The principles require that: -
- Where there is more than one political group, not all seats are allocated to the same political group;
  - The majority of seats are allocated to the group with the majority on full Council;
  - When considering all seats available for allocation the total of those given to each group should match their representation on full Council overall;
  - The number of seats on each individual committee allocated to groups should match their representation on the Council overall.
- 1.5.6 The principles of political proportionality and the process of allocating seats to groups has been applied. Council is asked to approve the revised allocation of seats to political groups shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.5.7 The Council composition is 52 Labour Group members (including the Elected Mayor), 6 Conservative Group members and 3 Independent Group members.
- 1.5.8 The Authority's Constitution is clear that full Council will decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules outlined above. Full Council can receive nominations of Members to serve on each Committee, or as is being recommended at paragraph 1.2 above, request Group Leaders to provide the names of their nominees to the Assistant Chief Executive (as Monitoring Officer) by 12 noon the following day of the Council meeting.
- 1.5.9 Section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, where a group has expressed its wishes as to the names of members to fill its allocated seats, full Council is under a duty to give effect to those group wishes.
- 1.5.10 At the Annual Meeting of full Council on 18 May 2023 there will be a further calculation of the allocation of seats based on the political balance of the Council that will apply at that time following the local elections in May 2023.

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

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

##### Option 1

To agree to the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 above.



## Option 2

Not to agree to the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 above.

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

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The Authority has a legal obligation to conduct a review of the representation of the different political groups on politically balanced committees and in doing so apply the principles set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. If full Council does not agree to the re-allocation of seats following the establishment of the Independent Group, it will not be acting in accordance with its legal obligation to do so.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix: Allocation of Seats to the Political Groups.

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Jacqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive/ Monitoring Officer, tel. (0191) 643 5724

Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance tel (0191) 643 5724

David G Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Strategic Finance, tel 0191 643 7027

John Barton, Team Leader, Corporate and Regulatory Team, Legal Services, tel (0191) 643 5354.

### **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 and Housing Act 1989

(2) The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

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

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

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

As stated in the report, the allocation of seats on politically balanced committees is governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The Authority's duty, through full Council, is to appoint Members to Committees in accordance with the principles of political proportionality and the wishes of the political groups.

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

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The senior Management Team and Cabinet have been consulted on the need to undertake a review of the allocation of seats following the establishment of a new political group as have all Members of the Authority.

### 2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

No such consultation is required and has therefore not been undertaken.

## 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

There are no risks arising from this report. There is a risk that if Council does not re-allocate seats based on the new political balance of full Council it will be failing in its legal obligations to do so.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

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

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no crime and disorder 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

APPENDIX

<b>Committee/Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Total Number of Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15	13	1	1
Finance Sub-Committee	7	6	1	0
Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee	12	10	1	1
Adult, Social Care, Health and Well Being Sub-Committee	12	10	1	1
Children, Educations and Skills Sub-Committee	12	10	1	1
Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee	12	10	2	0
Environment Sub-Committee	12	10	2	0
Housing Sub-Committee	12	10	1	1
Audit Committee	7	6	1	0
Licensing Committee	15	13	1	1
Planning Committee	11	9	1	1
Regulation and Review Committee	18	15	2	1
Appointments and Disciplinary Committee	7	6	1	0
Standards Committee	9	8	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

## **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 16 March 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**

Can the mayor please explain whether or not she thinks spending over £26,000 on a new council logo is a good use of Taxpayers money?

#### **2. Question to the elected Mayor by Councillor M Thirlaway**

Will the Elected Mayor explain what impact the Government's decision not to award Levelling Up; funding will have on the Wallsend Masterplan and the North Shields Masterplan?

This page is intentionally left blank