

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 23 November 2023

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 23 November 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 B Burdis (Chair)

Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor G Bell
Councillor L Bell	Councillor L Bones
Councillor C Burdis	Councillor S Burtenshaw
Councillor K Clark	Councillor D Cox
Councillor S Cox	Councillor N Craven
Councillor J Cruddas	Councillor E Darke
Councillor C Davis	Councillor S Day
Councillor D Drummond	Councillor P Earley
Councillor S Graham	Councillor I Grayson
Councillor M Hall	Councillor T Hallway
Councillor J Harrison	Councillor A Holdsworth
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor V Jamieson
Councillor C Johnson	Councillor H Johnson
Councillor J Johnsson	Councillor C Johnston
Councillor J Kirwin	Councillor F Lott
Councillor W Lott	Councillor G Madden
Councillor I McAlpine	Councillor P McIntyre
Councillor A McMullen	Councillor J Montague
Councillor J Mudzingwa	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor M Murphy	Councillor A Newman
Councillor P Oliver	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor E Parker-Leonard	Councillor S Phillips
Councillor B Pickard	Councillor W Samuel
Councillor O Scargill	Councillor J Shaw

Councillor A Spowart
Councillor J Walker
Councillor M Wilson

Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor J Wallace

Apologies: Councillor M Fox, Councillor John Hunter, Councillor L Marshall, Councillor T Neira, Councillor R O'Keefe and N Redfearn

C48/22 Minute Silence

A minute's silence was observed in respect of the passing of Councillor Linda Arkley OBE, serving councillor for Cullercoats ward. She was first elected as councillor in 1991 for Tynemouth. In 2003 she was the Borough's first female elected Mayor, a position she was elected into again in 2009.

She received an OBE in 2018 for services to politics, as recognition of her dedication.

C49/22 Presentation from the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Council heard from Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Kim McGuinness.

Kim advised Council that she was pleased to attend the meeting and to have in attendance with her Vanessa Jardine, the Chief Constable, who has been in post since April of this year.

It was noted that North Tyneside Council and Councillors have been an important partner in the work of the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and that the region continues to remain a safe region and North Tyneside a safe place to live and work.

However, the Commissioner advised that there are still challenges to face, there is definitely a North / South divide when it comes to recruitment. There was nothing mentioned in the Autumn Statement about public services and whilst other forces report historic numbers we are still fighting for more cops.

However, the force has recently launched a new era of Neighbourhood Policing with 134 new police officers in neighbourhoods and 98 additional PCSOs. There is

a targeted effort on Transport to improve transport safety and NTC have funded extra wardens to target offenders with £1m from the PCC office.

The Police are aware of the issues of Motorcycle Anti-Social behaviour and using intelligence and the introduction of drones are behind the key partnership successes. It was re-iterated that this is a safe Borough and a safe region.

The Chief Constable also advised Council that she too was delighted to be here and has spent her first few months getting out and about to meet people, speaking to her members of staff and getting to know partners and stakeholders. The Chief Constable highlighted three of her key priorities as follows:

1. To be there when needed
2. To make improvements in response
3. With regards to investigations, keeping victims up to date

The Chief Constable advised that the force will continue with their priority based budgeting approach in order to realise some investment opportunities and are looking at an operating model review, work has already started and it is expected that everything will be in place by April 2024. There are and continue to be challenges, including national challenges which can affect us locally. There have been protests on a huge scale, not here in but officers are working hard to reassure the public, we are keeping them safe. The Chief Constable's advised that from her perspective she advised that North Tyneside is a very safe place to live and work and a great place to live and work.

The chair thanked the PCC and the Chief Constable for their attendance and advised members if their questions had not been asked they could send them to the PCC's office via the chairman and responses would be arranged.

C50/22 Public Questions

1. Question from Mr Christie of Wallsend

I would like to thank the Chair of allowing me to bring this question forward to this meeting, which happens to coincide with Road Safety Week. 5 people killed and 76 people seriously injured every day on our roads, every act of road violence has a serious detrimental impact on victims and their families.

On the 21 September 2023 during the Meeting of Council, Motion 5 was moved with regards to Road Safety, however, the initiatives provided by this current leadership amounts to nothing more than kicking the can down the road and putting the onus on Northumbria Police to enforce Road Safety.

To quote paragraph 3 on the amended motion:

“Council also notes other than road and road infrastructure design North Tyneside council has little power to enforce on road safety.”

Central government allows councils to apply for powers to enforce moving traffic offences, which the current leadership has been approached for by individuals, schools and road safety organisations since they became available in May 2022. This includes the ability to enforce School Streets.

To date, the current leadership have actively refused to apply for those powers. Whilst it could be argued that the working in the motion is accurate, it does hide the matter that the council has powers available to use, but have yet refused to apply for them. This could be seen as a neutral observer as being disingenuous.

As a result, I am calling on the Mayor to allow the committee to hear evidence from the citizens of this Borough, the road safety groups and organisations that have been raising this with councillors and the Mayor directly to aid in the decision making process.

Will the Mayor hear this call and update Motion 5 from 21 September 2023 to include the hearing of evidence to the Committee?

Councillor H Johnson responded on behalf of the elected mayor as follows:

Thank you Mr Christie for your questions. Following the road safety Motion and subsequent review at the Green Sub Committee, it was agreed that the Council will undertake discussions with emergency services stakeholders. The purpose of which are to review working practices and processes, establish opportunities to share information, promote Community Speed Watch and to review all moving traffic offences.

As part of these discussions, we will also undertake a public consultation exercise to give residents the opportunity to provide comments as how best to deal with road safety and speeding prevention.

The public consultation exercise will commence in January 2024 for 4 weeks and be made available through the Council's website. The results of the consultation will be published and included in the new plan for addressing the Motion.

The final report will be presented at a council meeting in March 2024 for approval.

We will also include evidence from the public in addressing the motion following the consultation exercise.

Consultation on the plan will commence in January 2024, and this will give our residents the opportunity to help shape and influence the plan by providing comments regarding what measures they would like to see being included to address speeding concerns.

This plan will be included as an addition to the Travel Safety Strategy that is currently being updated and refreshed. At this stage members of the public will be given the opportunity to submit comments for inclusion in the document relating to improving road safety and preventing speeding.

Mr Christie asked the following supplementary question:

In relation to the planning processes that entrenches a motoring attitude with wide sweeping corners, junctions, massive multi lane roundabouts and pedestrian barriers, not to protect pedestrians but to allow progression of motors without the threat of inconvenience to motorists, you have the opportunity to design the life out of anti-social motoring behaviour, noting the motion to include speed-watch was mentioned, this is just another loose attempt to show progress without actually doing anything on behaviours.

Hunter S Thompson US Journalist said, we can't expect people to have respect for Law and Order until we teach respect to those we have entrusted to enforce these laws. When will the leadership show actual political will, invest in measures to enforce civil motoring offences within the Borough.

Councillor Johnson responded as follows:

We will be undertaking a consultation and speaking to emergency services which will include Northumbria Police, we will also be consulting with other groups as well, Driving Schools and the British Horse Society to make sure our roads are as safe as possible. I know that you as well are specifically involved in Denbeigh School and School Streets and I am actually going to be meeting with the Head Teacher along with officers over the next week or so and going to be discussing that specifically with her as well.

2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Jones of North Shields

In 2021 it was estimated 11.6% of people in North Tyneside often or always felt lonely. This figure puts North Tyneside in the worst 10% of local authority areas, and clearly represents a serious problem. What action has the council taken since then to address this issue, and how is it monitoring progress made?

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

I fully agree that loneliness is a collective challenge that requires action.

While the Office for National Statistics survey highlighted that North Tyneside was in the worst 10% of local authority areas, this survey was carried out during a national lockdown and at a time where North Tyneside had additional local restrictions in place.

More recently the Council's resident survey found that 8% of residents reported feeling lonely or isolated most or all of the time, which is in line with the national average.

We need to note that loneliness isn't just an individual issue; it's a community concern that impacts us all. Loneliness can erode the sense of connection and belonging that is vital for a thriving community.

While the 'loneliness' stereotype is often that of older people, we know the main challenge of loneliness is that it can affect anyone at any stage of life.

As a Council we provide many direct services to help combat loneliness, promote social connections, and build relationships. It is clear that health, education, transport, housing, planning, employment, culture, and leisure can all make a dramatic difference to reducing loneliness.

Our Residents' Survey and national research highlights that there are some circumstances or personal characteristics that can put people at greater or lesser risk of loneliness including life challenges, such as redundancy, retirement, parenthood, bereavement, and caring responsibilities.

Many of the Council services available to support our residents can alleviate loneliness at different life stages including our **Family Hubs** that support new parents, **Adult Skills and Employment service** which provide opportunities to learn new skills, gain confidence and gain employment.

Care and Connect provides residents with opportunities to access activities and groups to support wellbeing and reduce isolation. Our **Warm Welcome spaces** give residents access to free hot drinks, Wi-Fi, and opportunities to do activities such as bingo, crafts and cookery lessons.

Our newly approved **Connecting Communities strategy** will turn four existing Customer First Centres and two community centres into community 'hubs', having inclusive spaces that become a focal point for community activity. Working with partners we will be able to join up the wide range of activities that are provided in our communities.

Mr Jones asked the following supplementary question:

The ongoing review of polling stations have flagged up areas where polling places have had to be placed outside of polling districts because there's not a single communal building within the area, meanwhile there is a number of large housing developments being permitted which include no communal amenities setting up the long term future for more of the same. Does the Council recognise that this is part of the problem and will it commit to finding ways to make sure future developments build communities rather than just maximising the number of houses.

Councillor Johnson responded as follows:

I absolutely do recognise that some developments don't have community facilities and shops on, we will work with the master plans in all of our large developments to make sure that is the case. The reality is that we would need a change in primary legislation in order to enforce that, we would need a change in National Planning Policy Framework in order to ensure that any development built

had to have community facilities on, I absolutely think they should, this is something we will continue to campaign on and I hope Mr Jones will join us in trying to make sure we get a change in primary legislation to try and combat loneliness as there is a real issue and we don't just want large housing estates built that causes huge issues, we need places that are for communities and where communities can thrive.

3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Steele of Tynemouth

In October this year, 'Climate Emergency UK' published their 'Climate Scorecards for Council'. North Tyneside Council's overall score of 27% was below the average of 35%. In particular, it scores NTC very poorly in the 'Governance and Finance' (1%) and 'Transport' (4%) categories.

My question relates, however, to the area of 'Planning & Land Use' where NTC scored only 8% against a national average of 35%. This section includes scores for using a 'fabric first approach' and a requirement that 'all new homes be built to be operationally (regulated) net zero'.

What plans and time-scales does the council have to improve on this score, and update the Local Plan, given that the efficient use of energy in buildings is not only one of the most affordable ways to lessen the detrimental effects of climate change, but can also have a positive effect on our physical, psychological and financial well-being?

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

Thank you for your question Mr Steele.

We don't agree with the climate scorecards for councils published by 'Climate Emergency UK'.

The evidence we provided in response to initial scoring via volunteer research, does not appear to have been taken into account. We are therefore currently in the process of challenging the findings in the scorecard, with significant supporting evidence.

Climate emergency UK seem to think our net zero target is 2050 when in actual

fact it is 2030 as you and the people in our borough know very well.

Indeed, I am very proud of the Council's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 action plan and the positive results this is producing.

Only last week, the Council was notified of our recent assessment by the Carbon Disclosure Project. This is a well-established global assessment of climate action by cities and regions, resulted in the Council being awarded the highest possible grade - which is a grade 'A'.

Of the 939 applicants in 2023, only 119 were awarded the A grade and this places North Tyneside on the "A list" alongside cities such as New York, Tokyo, London, Barcelona, Paris and Sydney.

Additionally, this year the Council won first prize in the category of Best Local Authority at the North East Energy Efficiency Awards and went on to finish in second place at the National Awards.

In terms of the North Tyneside Local Plan, this was adopted in 2017 following independent examination by an Inspector acting on behalf of the Secretary of State who concluded that it provided policies and proposals capable of securing sustainable development in the Borough.

There is work to do nationally, to ensure the climate and carbon considerations are a clear part of development frameworks. This is currently not the case and a re-working of policy framework is promised by government, when that changes our policies will change accordingly.

In the meantime, we continue to use all of the tools at our disposal to tackle this pressing issue that means so much to the Mayor, Cabinet, Council and the communities we serve. Thank you once again for your question.

Mr Steele asked the following supplementary question.

A number of points of contention there, a lot of Councils have scored well have welcomed the report, I found Sandra's response was kind of defensive, wonder if the council would consider collaborating with other councils that have got different scores in key areas.

Councillor Graham responded as follows:

Responding to Climate Emergency UKs climate scorecards, Councillor Darren Rodwell, Climate spokesperson for the LGA said that as leaders of their communities, leaders of Local Government have a fundamental role to play in tackling climate change, its very complex, bring very unique and inter-connecting and collective challenges to every place. We don't support league tables as they often paint a two dimensional picture of the context that Council's are working within and unfairly compare councils with different challenges. There are many authorities in this region who are challenging the scores, they have lost points like we have because the local plan doesn't include the Net Zero target and the target was set after the plan was produced. We've lost points for not reporting on our own emissions and not reducing our own emissions, both are false, we do. We've lost points for not raising income for climate action from any other sources despite a wealth of evidence to the contrary we gave them around a whole range of successful grants, we lost points for not enabling residents to shape the action plan and work programme, despite evidence to the contrary. We lost points for not having a clean air zone when we don't need one, we then lost points for not charging private vehicles for entering the clean air zone that we don't have. I could go on and on Mr Steele, but thank you again for your question.

C51/22 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Cox and Councillor D Cox declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 9 Empty Council Tax Property Premium and indicated that they would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

C52/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

C53/22 Motion 1

It was moved by Councillor C Davis and seconded by Councillor G Madden that:

North Tyneside welcomes the new Tobacco and Vapes Bill to create a generation which is smoke free. We as a council should be proactive and implement measures on single use vapes. The health and wellbeing are

paramount concerns for North Tyneside Council.

The local economy can benefit from promoting healthier alternatives to smoking, such as smoking cessation programs and support for individuals looking to quit. It is acknowledged that the use of vapes is widely used as a smoking alternative. However, the use of single-use vapes and electronic cigarettes has surged in popularity, especially among young people. Indeed, vapes are packaged, flavoured and promoted in a way that appeals to young people.

There is growing evidence of the health risks associated with vaping, including potential long-term consequences on respiratory health; With this in mind North Tyneside agrees the following measures to be considered:

- a. provide resources to public awareness campaigns, highlighting the health risks associated with vaping and the importance of smoking cessation programs.
- b. campaign to promote the negative impacts of vaping in schools and resource programmes specifically targeted at young people under 18 to reduce numbers using vapes
- c. Support research initiatives to better understand the long-term health effects of vaping and its impact on our community.
- d. promote responsible disposal practices for vaping products, including designated collection points to reduce litter and environmental pollution.

We believe that by taking these actions, we can help to protect the health of our residents, reduce the environmental impact of single-use vapes, and promote a safer and more sustainable North Tyneside for all.

An amendment was moved by Councillor K Clark and seconded by Councillor P Earley as follows:

In the second sentence, after Council, to insert 'should seek funding from the Government to',

At the end of the third paragraph, to insert 'However council notes clear guidance from public health England is If you smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don't smoke, don't vape.'

In the fourth paragraph, after North Tyneside, to insert 'agrees to write to the Government to seek funding support' and to delete 'to be considered' from the end of the sentence.

The amended motion therefore read:

North Tyneside welcomes the new Tobacco and Vapes Bill to create a generation which is smoke free. We as a council should seek funding from the Government to be proactive and implement measures on single use vapes. The health and wellbeing are paramount concerns for North Tyneside Council.

The local economy can benefit from promoting healthier alternatives to smoking, such as smoking cessation programs and support for individuals looking to quit. It is acknowledged that the use of vapes is widely used as a smoking alternative. However, the use of single-use vapes and electronic cigarettes has surged in popularity, especially among young people. Indeed, vapes are packaged, flavoured and promoted in a way that appeals to young people.

There is growing evidence of the health risks associated with vaping, including potential long-term consequences on respiratory health. However council notes clear guidance from public health England is If you smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don't smoke, don't vape.

With this in mind North Tyneside agrees to write to the Government to seek funding support for the following measures:

- a. provide resources to public awareness campaigns, highlighting the health risks associated with vaping and the importance of smoking cessation programs.
- b. campaign to promote the negative impacts of vaping in schools and resource programmes specifically targeted at young people under 18 to reduce numbers using vapes
- c. Support research initiatives to better understand the long-term health effects

of vaping and its impact on our community.

d. promote responsible disposal practices for vaping products, including designated collection points to reduce litter and environmental pollution.

We believe that by taking these actions, we can help to protect the health of our residents, reduce the environmental impact of single-use vapes, and promote a safer and more sustainable North Tyneside for all.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by two members present.

Votes for the Amendment:

Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, S Burtenshaw, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, A Holdsworth, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, M Wilson.

Votes against the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, J Johnsson, C Johnston, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J Wallace

The amendment was approved by 46 votes to 8 votes.

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

C54/22 Motion 2

(Cllr G Madden left the meeting at this point)

It was moved by Councillor I McAlpine and seconded by Councillor C Johnston that:

North Tyneside Council:

- Recognises the importance of small businesses to our local economy and the pressure they are under due to the rising cost of living caused by the war in Ukraine.
- Acknowledges some of the great work that already goes on to encourage residents to shop locally, including the Shop NT project run by the authority and other projects run by the North of Tyne Combined authority through the government's shared prosperity fund.
- Encourages as many residents as possible to shop locally this Christmas, because we know when we support local businesses money is reinvested into our local economy, making our area an even better place to live
- Asks the Mayor to introduce 2-hours of free parking in our town centres for the duration of December, encouraging more visitors to our outstanding small businesses. The scheme should allow all council run town centre parking to have a 2-hour no return option while also protecting the option to pay for longer for those who use our car parks regularly. Council believes this would deliver a well needed boost to our small businesses.

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

To add the following to the first paragraph 'Conservative Government mismanaging the economy and'

To remove paragraph 4.

To add the following final paragraph:

'Asks the Mayor to continue with her policy of free weekend and evening parking in our town centres to support more people to shop locally supporting our outstanding small businesses. Note that while introducing 2 hour free parking during the day time would be positive, it wouldn't be possible to enforce this without a TRO in place and we couldn't introduce one at such short notice without consultation. Note that this policy would also need to be fully tested and changing daytime weekday parking arrangements is likely to have a significant

impact on residential parking around the town centres.'

The amended motion therefore read:

North Tyneside Council:

- Recognises the importance of small businesses to our local economy and the pressure they are under due to the rising cost of living caused by the Conservative Government mismanaging the economy and the war in Ukraine.
- Acknowledges some of the great work that already goes on to encourage residents to shop locally, including the Shop NT project run by the authority and other projects run by the North of Tyne Combined authority through the government's shared prosperity fund.
- Encourages as many residents as possible to shop locally this Christmas, because we know when we support local businesses money is reinvested into our local economy, making our area an even better place to live

Asks the Mayor to continue with her policy of free weekend and evening parking in our town centres to support more people to shop locally supporting our outstanding small businesses. Note that while introducing 2 hour free parking during the day time would be positive, it wouldn't be possible to enforce this without a TRO in place and we couldn't introduce one at such short notice without consultation. Note that this policy would also need to be fully tested and changing daytime weekday parking arrangements is likely to have a significant impact on residential parking around the town centres.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by two members present.

Votes for the Amendment:

Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, S Burtenshaw, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, A Holdsworth, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, M Wilson.

Votes against the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, J Johnsson, C Johnston, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J Wallace

Abstentions:

Councillors C Davis and V Jamieson

The amendment was approved by 43 votes to 8 votes with 2 abstentions.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor C Davis and seconded by Councillor V Jamieson as follows:

In paragraph 1, to remove 'war in Ukraine' and replace with 'obscene profits made by energy companies and banks together with the Government's incompetence and cuts to local authority funding'.

To insert the following as paragraph 4 'Investigate whether the existing costs of car-parking discriminate, in practice, against users in North Shields and whether there should be better provision for disabled drivers.'

The amended motion therefore read:

North Tyneside Council:

- Recognises the importance of small businesses to our local economy and the pressure they are under due to the rising cost of living caused by obscene profits made by energy companies and banks together with the Government's incompetence and cuts to local authority funding.
- Acknowledges some of the great work that already goes on to encourage residents to shop locally, including the Shop NT project run by the authority and other projects run by the North of Tyne Combined authority through the government's shared prosperity fund.
- Encourages as many residents as possible to shop locally this Christmas, because we know when we support local businesses

money is reinvested into our local economy, making our area an even better place to live.

Investigate whether the existing costs of car-parking discriminate, in practice, against users in North Shields and whether there should be better provision for disabled drivers.

Asks the Mayor to continue with her policy of free weekend and evening parking in our town centres to support more people to shop locally supporting our outstanding small businesses. Note that while introducing 2 hour free parking during the day time would be positive, it wouldn't be possible to enforce this without a TRO in place and we couldn't introduce one at such short notice without consultation. Note that this policy would also need to be fully tested and changing daytime weekday parking arrangements is likely to have a significant impact on residential parking around the town centres.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 45 votes to 8 votes.

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

To add the following paragraph: 'Asks the Mayor to introduce 2-hours of free parking from next year, for the duration of December, to support our small businesses each and every Christmas.'

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was rejected by 45 votes to 8 votes.

A recorded vote on the substantive motion was requested by two members present.

Votes for the Motion:

Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, S Burtenshaw, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, A Holdsworth, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E

Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, M Wilson

Votes against the motion:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, J Johnsson, C Johnston, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J Wallace

The substantive motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 45 votes to 8 votes.

C55/22 Motion 3

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

The recent spike in dangerous dog attacks by the so called XL Bully breed, including attacks in North Tyneside, has been shocking. Council welcomes the efforts of responsible dog owners who train their dogs properly resulting in well behaved dogs which offer companionship and enhance our communities.

North Tyneside Council:

- Welcomes the Government's decision to add the XL Bully type to the list of dogs prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Meaning that from 1 February it will become illegal to own an XL Bully dog if it is not registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs.
- Asks the Mayor to work with Housing to establish any policy areas in relation council housing tenancies that could be tightened to ensure a more robust stance on ownership of dogs where they are found to play in a part in anti-social behaviour.

An amendment was moved by Councillor J Harrison and seconded by Councillor W Samuel as follows:

Bullet point 1 – to add the word 'Conservative' after 'welcomes the'.

To remove bullet point 2 and replace with 'Ask the mayor to write to all members

confirming we already have policies in place for council tenants with regards to animals and any part they may play in anti-social behaviours. But also notes that it is not only council tenants who may cause anti-social behaviour with regards to dogs and it is the police, not the council who have the powers to enforce this under the dangerous dogs act.'

The amended motion therefore read:

The recent spike in dangerous dog attacks by the so called XL Bully breed, including attacks in North Tyneside, has been shocking. Council welcomes the efforts of responsible dog owners who train their dogs properly resulting in well behaved dogs which offer companionship and enhance our communities.

North Tyneside Council:

- Welcomes the Conservative Government's decision to add the XL Bully type to the list of dogs prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Meaning that from 1 February it will become illegal to own an XL Bully dog if it is not registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs.
- Asks the mayor to write to all members confirming we already have policies in place for council tenants with regards to animals and any part they may play in anti-social behaviours. But also notes that it is not only council tenants who may cause anti-social behaviour with regards to dogs and it is the police, not the council who have the powers to enforce this under the dangerous dogs act.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by two members present.

Votes for the Amendment:

Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, S Burtenshaw, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, A Holdsworth, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, M Wilson.

Votes against the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, J Johnsson, C Johnston, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J Wallace

The amendment was approved by 45 votes to 8 votes.

A recorded vote on the Substantive motion was requested by two members present.

Votes for the Motion:

Councillors G Bell, L Bell, B Burdis, C Burdis, S Burtenshaw, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, A Holdsworth, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, A Newman, P Oliver, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, M Wilson.

Votes against the Motion:

None

Abstentions:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, J Johnsson, C Johnston, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, O Scargill, J Wallace

The Motion was approved by 45 votes with 8 abstentions.

C56/22 Appointment of Deputy Chair of Caring Sub-Committee

(Councillor E Parker Leonard and Cllr A Holdsworth left the meeting at this point)

Council sought nominations for the position of Deputy Chair of the Caring Sub-Committee.

Councillor Gary Bell was nominated. No other nominations were received.

On being put to the meeting, the appointment of Cllr Gary Bell as Deputy Chair of

the Caring Sub-committee was approved by 43 votes with 8 abstentions.

C57/22 Electric Vehicle Charging

Council received a report relating to Electric Vehicle Charging, following a cross-party working group which was established to consider matters raised in a motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023.

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

- a) The contents of the report and the findings of the cross-party working group established in accordance with the motion agreed by full Council on 19 January 2023; and
- b) The details of the report, including the actions recommended by the working group set out in the report be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration.

The recommendations, on being put to the meeting were approved unanimously.

C58/22 Council Tax Empty Property Premium

(Cllr D Cox and Cllr S Cox left the meeting for this item. Cllr A Spowatt and Cllr C Davis also left the meeting at this point)

Council received a report on the setting out the proposed changes to the Council Tax Empty Property Premium arising from the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill which received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023.

It was moved by Councillor A McMullen and seconded by Councillor C Johnson that Council:

- (i) Agree that with effect from 1 April 2024, the current Long-Term Empty Property Council Tax Premium charged by the Authority be applied to dwellings that have been empty for 1 year rather than 2 years;
- (ii) That the Director of Resources be given delegated authority to determine if any exemption from the Long-Term Empty Property Council Tax Premium should apply to a particular property as considered appropriate and that this delegation be included in the Officer

Delegation Scheme which forms part of the Council's constitution.

- (iii) Notes that a further report will be presented to full Council on the potential application of the power to charge a Council Tax Premium on dwellings that are occupied periodically ("second homes").

On being put to the meeting the report was approved by 45 votes to 2 votes.

C59/22 Request for Dispensation pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

This item was withdrawn as Councillor Burdis was in attendance at the meeting.

C60/22 Chair's Announcements

Members were reminded that the 25 November marked the 16 days of action against violence against women, members were advised that one of the ways they can support this action is by wearing a white ribbon and that there was a box of white ribbons for those members who needed them at the entrance to the Chamber.

The Chair advised Council of the following events he had attended since the last meeting of Council in September.

The Chair informed Council that he had given out

Citizenship certificates to North Tyneside residents who have come from various part of the world all with different backgrounds who have brought with them the much needed skills that we require in the UK.

The Chair advised that he had been fortunate to be invited to the Salvation International Band concert in the Cultural Quarter in Howard Street in September. Also in September the Chair attended the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service at the War Memorial on the links.

The chair also attended the following events in October and November.

The State of Area Event at the Linskill Centre

He gave out medals and certificates at the Hadrian School Swimming Gala

He attended the Trafalgar Celebrations

He gave out certificates at the Adult Learning Awards in the Council Chamber, He opened a number of poppy appeals for the Royal British Legions of North Shields, Forest Hall and Whitley Bay

He attended Whitley Bay Rotary Club Centenary Lunch with thanks to John Clarkson and the members of the Rotary Club for that invitation

He was privileged to attend the dedication of Fields of Remembrance at Saltwell Park

The Chair advised Council that it was with Great Sadness that he attended the funeral mass of Councillor Linda Arkley.

The Chair advised that he was pleased to attend the Freedom of The Borough presentation to Sting

Finally the chair advised that he attended the 1945 Remembrance Service at the White Heart Centre

He also attended Remembrance Services at North Shields, Whitley Bay and Backworth.

C61/22 Elected Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Carl Johnson on behalf of Dame Redfearn who was very sad she could not be here as Councillor Johnson announced that Mark Longstaff would be retiring from North Tyneside Council after 28 years of service at North Tyneside but starting his working career in Local Government in 1984 and this would be his last council meeting.

Mark has been at the sharp end of lots of big issues over the last 10 years in particular and has done a fantastic job and the Council really wants to express its thanks to Mark for that.

Councillor Johnson told Council that he personally was very sad to see Mark go as he had been a great assistance to him from even before he was a Councillor answering lots of questions. Really want to pay tribute to Mark for his service to North Tyneside

C62/22 Questions by Members of the Council

Question 1 – from Cllr Matt Wilson

North Tyneside Council is committed to supporting women, working to ensure they can live free from coercion, abuse, and violence. Please would the Elected Mayor update us on progress made on this issue since we first passed our White Ribbon motion in 2021?

Response from Councillor Clark

Thank you for your question. Like you, and most of us here, I too remember the White Ribbon motion being passed. We should all take pride in the fact it received unanimous support. Our message was therefore clear about the level of seriousness with which we take this issue and the values we want to uphold in North Tyneside.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made since the motion was passed.

Following its application, the Authority received formal accreditation from the White Ribbon organisation in November 2021 and therefore endorsement for the required 3-year plan we submitted.

We have:

- Established a growing network of **ambassadors** – those who have signed the White Ribbon pledge, men from across the authority, across partner organisations
- Embedded a group of **champions** – those who have committed to raise awareness, who are women and reflect those groups referred to
- Ensured we have a strong **communications plan**,
- Participated in the annual international **16 days of action** commencing on 'White Ribbon Day' on 25 November, and there is a whole range of actions in place including the Park Run at the Rising Sun Country Park on Sunday 25 November at 9am
- On the 16 days the White Ribbon flags will be flown at Quadrant, in Killingworth and the Lighthouse will be illuminated orange
- There is more ways on the Council website about ways people may want to get involved
- Engaged in developing the Authority's overall work on ensuring **dignity and respect** in working for the council.

We are now at the mid-way point of delivering our 3-year delivery plan and the steering group, chaired by our Director of Regeneration and Economic Development John Sparkes, is reviewing where we have got to and looking to shape the next steps going forward.

Question 2 – from Cllr Andy Newman

Nuclear test veterans have fought long and hard for the recognition they deserve, yet many were left disappointed when their long-awaited medals were unceremoniously sent out in the post, the Government has so far failed to organise any medal ceremonies to honour our nuclear test veterans. Will the Elected Mayor commit to holding medal ceremonies for North Tyneside veterans awarded the nuclear test medal?

Response from Councillor Carl Johnson

Thank you Councillor Newman, much like you I'm very disappointed that the honour this chamber has discussed many times and has received cross party support on, Councillor Gary Bell when he was Veterans Champion brought a number of motions on the Nuclear Test Veterans. We've had representatives from the community in here many times.

The way this was handled from the Government, the way they have organised it doesn't sit well with me Chair so I absolutely agree Nuclear Test Veterans deserve a high recognition for their service and we have spoken with the officer team, who will now make the necessary arrangements to hold a ceremony to celebrate those veterans that have been awarded medals.

Councillor Newman asked the following supplementary question.

Councillor Newman advised that due to the nature of the operations we don't hold any date on eligible veterans and the current policy is that any veteran who believe they are eligible have to apply on line, can I ask that the Council take an active role in advertising how veterans apply and encouraging all eligible veterans to apply for these medals?

Councillor Johnson responded as follows:

Absolutely Councillor Newman we will use all channels that we possibly can to try and promote this as far and wide as we possibly can.

Question 3 – from Councillor Olly Scargill

Will the Mayor provide usage data for Rake Lane, the New York bypass and the roundabout from before and after the introduction of their cycle scheme.

Councillor Sandra Graham provided the following response:

We aim to support people of all ages to take part in cycling as a healthy and sustainable way of getting to workplaces, shops, schools and other local destinations. In our Cycling Strategy we set out how we will support 'everyday cycling'.

We measure numbers of cycle trips through electronic counters at locations throughout the borough, and a summary of this is reported to Cabinet each year as part of the North Tyneside Transport Strategy Annual Report. This showed that cycling in the borough was 18.6% higher than the Authority's target for 2022.

Pre-pandemic data is not available for Rake Lane and the New York Bypass. We have recently installed fixed cycle counters on the route to enable us to monitor cycling growth in this corridor. These fixed counters were installed in April 2023, one just east of the New York by-pass, Billy Mill Lane roundabout works and the other to the west of the Rake Lane Preston North Road roundabout. Data from the cycle counters indicates that the current average daily number of cyclists using this route is 154, however, it should be noted that roadworks associated with the new housing development are currently ongoing on this route.

The Authority has also been successful in securing £11m of external funding to deliver the Sea Front Sustainable Route, which will encourage families and visitors to cycle to and along North Tyneside's coast. I look forward to seeing many more people taking part in cycling, which will help to support people's health, better local air quality and our carbon net-zero goals.

Councillor Scargill asked the following supplementary question.

I don't think that was an answer to the question, given that we aren't going to get the data, had the scheme been put to the vote last year as we asked the scheme would never have gone ahead, people would have voted overwhelmingly against its implementation, it's just another example of an out of touch labour council, splashing our money about like nothing else on big fancy projects whilst getting the basics all wrong. Is it the case that the Mayor is hiding the data because it shows her beloved cycle scheme hasn't increased the number of cyclists around New York or how safe they feel, it's a huge waste of money and caused chaos and disruption like never before.

Councillor Sandra Graham responded as follows:

I have just told you that this data is published and I've given you the daily cycling rates of 154 and its published every year in the Cabinet report. There is nothing hidden, it is all open and transparent, this is Government money, your government who gave us the money that we bid for. This is government money that we bid for to improve cycling infrastructure to allow the Borough to become a Greener and better Net Zero Borough. Thank You.

C63/22 Decision of the Standards Sub-Committee

This report was submitted for Council to note. Council were advised that it would not be appropriate to discuss this report as the decision has already been made and published.