

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

Thursday, 14 March 2024

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday, 14 March 2024 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)
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor L Bones
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 M Fox	Councillor S Graham
Councillor I Grayson	Councillor M Hall
Councillor T Hallway	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 L Marshall	Councillor I McAlpine
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 P Oliver	Councillor R O'Keefe
Councillor J O'Shea	Councillor E Parker-Leonard
Councillor S Phillips	Councillor B Pickard
Councillor W Samuel	Councillor O Scargill

Councillor J Shaw
Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor J Wallace

Councillor A Spowart
Councillor J Walker
Councillor M Wilson

Apologies: Councillor G Bell, Councillor L Bell, Councillor S Burtenshaw, Councillor A Holdsworth and Councillor John Hunter

C85/23 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were reported as follows:

Councillor Lewis Bartoli – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 4, Motion 5– owns a property in Front Street which is mentioned in the motion.

Councillor Liam Bones – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 4 and Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Julie Cruddas – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Frank Lott – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Wendy Lott – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Tommy Mulvenna – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family members who work for the authority.

Councillor Martin Murphy – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Rebecca O’Keefe – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 5 – family member is employee of North Tyneside Council.

Councillor Pat Oliver – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 4, Motion 6 – family members who receives adult social care from Council.

Councillor Jane Shaw – Registerable Personal – Item 5 – Councillor Shaw's husband works for Monkseaton High School.

Councillor Matthew Thirlaway – Non-Registerable Personal – Item 4, Motion 6 and Item 5- has a family member who is employed by an adult social care provider, he is employed by a social care provider who receives funding from North Tyneside Council and has a family member who is employed by is employed by North Tyneside Council.

C86/23 Minutes of the meetings held on 18 January 2024, 1 February 2024 and 15 February 2024

The Chair confirmed to the Council and gallery that Motion 8 had been withdrawn and would therefore not be debated or discussed that evening.

An announcement of a change in order of business was made so that Item 4 would swap place with Item 5.

The Chair gave those councillors who were standing down in May the opportunity to speak to the Council. Councillors Debbie Cox, Margaret Hall, Erin Parker-Leonard, Matt Wilson, Val Jamieson and Michelle Fox took the opportunity to thank their colleagues and officers for support and the opportunity to serve their residents and wards.

Councillor John Harrison made a statement on behalf of Councillor John Hunter, and passed on his thanks to colleagues, residents and officers.

Regarding the minutes of the 15 February meeting, Councillor Davis asked that Motion 5 be amended to reflect that Councillor Carl Johnson requested that the Community Independent Group withdraw that Motion, that they had refused this request and asked that the Motion continue to be heard and recorded through the Council's procedures as usual.

Councillor Bones proposed a Motion without notice to amend those minutes to reflect Councillor Davis' statement. This was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 January 2024, 1 February 2024 and 15 February 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

C87/23 North Tyneside Council Pay Policy 2024/25

A report was received which sets out the recommendation that the Council approve the Pay Policy statement for 2024/25 and authorises publication of the Pay Policy.

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.

It was moved by Councillor Carl Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sandra Graham that Council:

(1) approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25

The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

C88/23 Motion 1 Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Planning Applications

The Chair moved a Motion with notice that Councillor Bones be not heard further on a Motion that Councillor Bones had tried to move without notice. The Motion that Councillor Bones be not heard further was seconded by Councillor Thirlaway. This Motion was voted on and the majority agreed that Councillor Bones be not heard further on this matter.

Councillor Davis moved a Motion on Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Planning Applications, and it was seconded by Councillor Fox that:

The Community Independent Group moves that North Tyneside Council should take into account the health impacts of air pollution, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations.

This aligns with our commitment to prioritise public health; cleaner air and well-being in urban development decisions. It also is in keeping with the government guidance on healthy and safe communities which states that planning and

health need to be taken together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population). The motion is also consistent with the North Tyneside plan for a Green and Caring North Tyneside.

Council therefore requests that the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development:

1. undertakes an evaluation of how the Authority's Planning process could be adapted to take into account the health impacts of air pollution, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations; and
2. reports the findings of the evaluation to the Planning Committee for it to then determine whether to implement any changes to the planning process in relation to the determination of planning applications for petrol stations.

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

In the introductory paragraph replace 'Community Independent Group' with 'Council'.

Remove the second paragraph after the first sentence and replace with 'Acknowledge the essential role of petrol stations in providing vital services, especially in communities where electric cars may be less accessible due to their higher cost, we also recognize the benefits they bring to these areas. Therefore, the motion aims to strike a balance between public health considerations and the needs of these communities, while ensuring that any adverse health impacts are mitigated.'

In addition to the above, the Council should consider asking developers to produce a health impact assessment in certain cases, especially where there is a significant potential for adverse health effects due to air pollution from petrol stations. This assessment would help ensure that any planning decisions take into account both the potential health implications for local residents and the benefits that petrol stations provide to these communities.'

Remove the entirety of the third paragraph and replace with 'Therefore the

Council requests that the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development:

Undertakes an evaluation of how the Authority's Planning process could be adapted to take into account both the health impacts of air pollution and the benefits of petrol stations, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations; and

1. Considers incorporating a requirement for developers to produce a health impact assessment in certain cases, especially where there is a significant potential for adverse health impacts due to air pollution from petrol stations.
2. Furthermore, the findings of the evaluation should be reported to the Planning Committee for it to then determine whether to implement any changes to the planning process in relation to the determination of planning applications for petrol stations.'

The amended motion therefore read:

The Council moves that North Tyneside Council should take into account the health impacts air pollution, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations. This aligns with our commitment to prioritise public health, cleaner air, and wellbeing in urban development decisions.

Acknowledge the essential role of petrol stations in providing vital services, especially in communities where electric cars may be less accessible due to their higher cost, we also recognize the benefits they bring to these areas. Therefore, the motion aims to strike a balance between public health considerations and the needs of these communities, while ensuring that any adverse health impacts are mitigated.

In addition to the above, the Council should consider asking developers to produce a health impact assessment in certain cases, especially where there is a significant potential for adverse health effects due to air pollution from petrol stations. This assessment would help ensure that any planning decisions take into account both the potential health implications for local residents and the benefits that petrol stations provide to these communities.

Therefore, the Council requests that the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development:

1. Undertakes an evaluation of how the Authority's Planning process could be

adapted to take into account both the health impacts of air pollution and the benefits of petrol stations, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations; and

2. Considers incorporating a requirement for developers to produce a health impact assessment in certain cases, especially where there is a significant potential for adverse health impacts due to air pollution from petrol stations.

Furthermore, the findings of the evaluation should be reported to the Planning Committee for it to then determine whether to implement any changes to the planning process in relation to the determination of planning applications for petrol stations.

A named vote for the amendment was requested by two members present.

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

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

Votes for the substantive motion:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The substantive motion was approved unanimously.

Councillor Bartoli asked to move a Motion without Notice to suspend procedural rule 4 [power and the duty of the chair] as set out in the Council Rules of Procedure and was seconded by Councillor Bones.

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

Votes for the motion:

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

Votes against the motion:

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

The Motion without notice was rejected by 47 to 6 votes.

C89/23 Motion 2 NHS Dentists

It was agreed that prior to moving the motion that a minor correction be made to the last paragraph of the motion, in that 'North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board' should replace 'Northumbria Health Trust'.

It was moved by Councillor Samuel, and seconded by Councillor Drummond that:

North Tyneside Council notes the appalling lack of dentists accepting new NHS patients in the Borough and the increasing number of dental practices moving to private patients only. This failure has been apparent for some time now, but action taken by the Conservative Government has failed to address this situation. Poor dental health, particularly amongst children, is having serious consequences for the future health of our residents.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask for urgent action to address the problem.

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

To remove the section of the second sentence that begins 'but action taken by the Conservative Government has failed to address the situation'.

To add 'Establish a Dental Taskforce chaired by the Mayor which brings together leading dental professionals, the NHS Trust, Councillors Officers and other stakeholders to directly address the issues facing dentists in North Tyneside and work with the Government to iron out the issues.'

To remove the initial part of the final sentence 'North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to...'.

The amended motion therefore read:

North Tyneside Council notes the appalling lack of dentists accepting new NHS patients in the Borough and the increasing number of dental practices moving to private patients only. This failure has been apparent for some time now. Poor dental health, particularly amongst children, is having serious consequences for the future health of our residents. North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to:

Establish a Dental Taskforce chaired by the Mayor which brings together leading dental professionals, the NHS Trust, Councillors Officers and other stakeholders to directly address the issues facing dentists in North Tyneside and work with the Government to iron out the issues.

To write to North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask for urgent action to address the problem.

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

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

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

Votes for the substantive motion:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The substantive motion was approved unanimously.

C90/23 Motion 3 Civility in Public life

It was moved by Councillor Parker-Leonard, and seconded by Councillor Graham that:

Robust debate and scrutiny are essential aspects of our democratic process; abuse and intimidation shouldn't have to be. Abuse can make elected representatives feel they need to step down and put potential future candidates off standing altogether – with women, people from a minority ethnic background, and those with disabilities suffering a disproportionate level of this behaviour. As Elected Members we must lead by example. We all have a responsibility to challenge this and have the duty to set the tone when campaigning.

We call upon candidates to take the civility pledge and run a respectful campaign and to reject intimidation in the run-up to general and local elections in the UK and consider sharing the pledge on social media to strengthen the message.

We call upon North Tyneside Council to endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations and ask the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider signing up on behalf of the Authority to the Civility and respect pledge put forward by the National Association of Local Councils, specifically signpost all Elected Members to the Local Governments Associations (LGA) Debate not Hate; and ensure it is included in inductions of Elected Members.

We call upon all Elected Members to read the call to action and endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations. We call upon all the leaders of each political party who stands candidates in North Tyneside to read, understand and agree to the key points in the joint statement on conduct of political party members created by the Committee on standards in public life.

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

That 'members of the LGBT+ community' be inserted into the second sentence after the word 'background'.

The amended motion therefore read:

Robust debate and scrutiny are essential aspects of our democratic process; abuse and intimidation shouldn't have to be. Abuse can make elected representatives feel they need to step down and put potential future candidates off standing altogether – with women, people from a minority ethnic background, members of the LGBT+ community and those with disabilities suffering a disproportionate level of this behaviour. As Elected Members we must lead by example. We all have a responsibility to challenge this and have the duty to set the tone when campaigning.

We call upon candidates to take the civility pledge and run a respectful campaign and to reject intimidation in the run-up to general and local elections in the UK and consider sharing the pledge on social media to strengthen the message.

We call upon North Tyneside Council to endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations and ask the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider signing up on behalf of the Authority to the Civility and respect pledge put forward by the National Association of Local Council, specifically signpost all Elected Members to the Local Governments Associations (LGA) Debate not Hate toolkit; and ensure it is included in inductions of Elected Members.

We call upon all Elected Members to read the call to action and endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations.

We call upon all the leaders of each political party who stands candidates in North Tyneside to read, understand and agree to the key points in the joint statement on conduct of political party members created by the Committee on

standards in public life.

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

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

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

Votes for the substantive motion:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, T Hallway, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, M Murphy, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, E Parker-Leonard, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The substantive motion was approved unanimously.

(Councillor Carl Johnson requested a five-minute break, and this was agreed by the Chair.)

C91/23 Motion 4 Levelling Up

(Councillors Hallway and Parker Leonard left the meeting at this point.)

It was moved by Councillor Carl Johnson, and seconded by Councillor Thirlaway that:

Only 20% of Towns funding and a similarly low percentage of 'Levelling Up fund' funding has been spent, despite being awarded many years ago in some cases. Government dithering over signing off business cases have caused costs to skyrocket because of the Conservatives mismanagement of the economy, this will mean many of the projects will never complete.

Michael Gove's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) recently handed over £2billion in levelling up funds back to the treasury, while giving nothing to our borough. The Conservative Government have rejected every single application for levelling up funds North Tyneside Council has submitted and place us as a priority two area.

We have shovel ready schemes in Wallsend, North Shields, and the North West ready to go.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for levelling up Housing and Communities and call upon him to release underspend funding at DLUCH to North Tyneside council for our shovel ready projects.

An amendment was moved by Councillor McAlpine and seconded by Councillor Johnston as follows:

To remove the second sentence completely, and from the third sentence remove the words 'Micheal Gove' and replace it with 'The'.

From the fourth sentence, remove the word 'Conservative', and remove the phrase 'rejected every single' and replace it with 'yet to approve an' and replace 'has' with 'have' later in that sentence.

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

Votes for the amendment:

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

Votes against the amendment:

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

The amendment was rejected by 41 votes to 8 votes, with 2 abstentions.

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

Votes for the amendment:

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

The amendment was approved by 43 votes, with 8 abstentions.

**C92/23 Motion 5 Support Measures for Tynemouth Business Community
affected by Major Infrastructure Projects**

(Councillors Bartoli and Murphy left the meeting at this point)

It was moved by Councillor Johnston, and seconded by Councillor Scargill that: The current infrastructure projects undertaken in Tynemouth, notably the creation of a one-way system and cycle path, have resulted in significant disruption to residents and businesses alike, mirroring the challenges faced during the embankment walkway construction in North Shields. The adverse effects on local businesses in Tynemouth, particularly along Front Street, Percy Park Road, and Grand Parade, are evidenced by substantial drops in revenue compared to previous years, posing a threat to their sustainability and viability.

The standstill traffic along the seafront and Broadway experienced every weekend is dissuading potential visitors and diminishing footfall, compounding the economic strains faced by local enterprises. Recognizing the proactive approach taken in North Shields fish quay, where the Council applied business rate relief to mitigate the loss in trade experienced by affected businesses this Council requests the Mayor and Cabinet to explore support measures for the business community in Tynemouth.

The support focuses on alleviating the economic burden and fostering resilience amidst on-going infrastructure developments. These measures may include:

- Implementing a rent relief scheme tailored to the needs of affected businesses

on Front Street, Percy Park Road, and Grand Parade.

- Suspending parking charges in the vicinity to encourage patronage and ease accessibility for customers.
- Providing financial support for public transport costs to facilitate mobility and mitigate traffic congestion.
- Any other appropriate schemes deemed necessary to safeguard the economic vitality of local businesses during this period of transition.

This motion seeks to demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting the Tynemouth business community and ensuring that they receive equitable assistance akin to that provided in other affected areas. Through collaborative efforts, North Tyneside are committed to mitigating the adverse impacts of infrastructure projects and foster a thriving local economy for the benefit of all residents and businesses alike.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Davis and seconded by Councillor Fox as follows:

In the second paragraph, replace the word 'experienced' with 'where it can be evidenced'.

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

Votes for the amendment:
Councillors C Davis, M Fox.

Votes against the amendment:
Councillors L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was rejected by 49 votes to 2 votes, with 1 abstention.

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

To remove all the first paragraph after the word 'alike'.

To remove the first sentence of the second paragraph.

In the second paragraph, replace the word 'experienced' with 'where it can be evidenced'.

To remove the third paragraph in its entirety.

The amended motion therefore read:

The current infrastructure projects undertaken in Tynemouth, notably the creation of a one-way system and cycle path, have resulted in significant disruption to residents and businesses alike.

Recognizing the proactive approach taken in North Shields fish quay, where the Council applied business rate relief to mitigate the loss in trade where it can be evidenced by affected businesses this Council requests the Mayor and Cabinet to explore support measures for the business community in Tynemouth.

This motion seeks to demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting the Tynemouth business community and ensuring that they receive equitable assistance akin to that provided in other affected areas. Through collaborative efforts, North Tyneside are committed to mitigating the adverse impacts of infrastructure projects and foster a thriving local economy for the benefit of all residents and businesses alike.

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, J Johnsson, H Johnson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

Councillor McAlpine asked if the Conservative group could have a copy of the data showing the Tynemouth footfall data mentioned by Councillor Carl Johnson.

A named vote on the substantive motion was requested by two members present:

Votes for the substantive motion:

Councillors L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, V Jamieson, C Johnson, J Johnsson, H Johnson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, M Thirlaway, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The motion was approved unanimously.

(Councillor Bartoli rejoined the meeting at this point)

C93/23 Motion 6 Real Living Wage

(Councillor Thirlaway left the meeting at this point)

It was moved by Councillor Davis, and seconded by Councillor Jamieson that: Information from the Living Wage Foundation shows that there are 28 organisations in North Tyneside that pay their employees a Real Living Wage, which is defined as £12.00 per hour. North Tyneside Council is not one of them though it is acknowledged that the Council is working towards this goal. There are other Councils in the North-East that have decided to become an accredited Real Living Wage employer, including both Newcastle City Council and Sunderland City Council.

Council resolves to request that the Elected Mayor and Cabinet:

1. applauds the work of the Tyne and Wear Citizens Group who have been campaigning on the Real Living Wage in the North-East for several years;
2. requests Officers to explore the financial implications of adopting the Real living wage and how these costs may be factored into the budgeting process in future years; and
3. agrees to encourage other employers in North Tyneside to also become an accredited real living wage employer.

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

Remove the last sentence in the first paragraph, and insert the below paragraphs

after this point.

'Notes North Tyneside council at the time of the last pay award was paying its staff on the lowest pay scale £11.59 above the level of the then real living wage level of £10.90 which was the living wage for financial year 23/24.

Notes that on conclusion of the current nationally negotiated pay award the lowest paid North Tyneside staff will once again be paid at least the real living wage with all payments backdated for the year 24/25.

The quirk exists because the Real living wage foundation releases their wage in October while councils pay awards begin in April.'

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

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

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

To add 'If the Council adopts the real living wage,' to the start of request 3.

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

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

Votes for the amendment:

Councillors L Bartoli, L Bones, B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Johnsson, C Johnston, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, I McAlpine, P McIntyre, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, O Scargill, J Shaw, A Spowart, J Walker, J Wallace, M Wilson.

The amendment was approved unanimously.

(Councillor Thirlaway rejoined the meeting at this point)

C94/23 Motion 7 Support for the Community Power Pledge

It was moved by Councillor Davis, and seconded by Councillor Fox that:

Community empowerment is crucial for fostering local development and engagement. Momentum is growing across the country for the proposal of a Community Power Act. This would be a transformative piece of legislation that would give local people the powers they need to shape the places where they live aims to enhance community involvement in decision-making processes;

1. The Act proposes to Establish three new community rights to take ownership of spaces, public services and investment;
2. Create Community Covenants to bring local people, organisations and local authorities together; and
3. Establish a Community Power Commissioner to uphold new community rights

It is imperative for our local representatives to actively support initiatives that promote community empowerment.

Therefore, Council resolves to request the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider:

1. acknowledging the significance of the Community Power Pledge in fostering community;
2. recognising the positive impact of empowering communities has in

decision-making processes;

3. urging all Members of Parliament representing North Tyneside to actively support and endorse the Community Power Pledge at the national level; and
4. committing to working collaboratively with local communities to implement measures that align with the principles of the Community Power Pledge.

It is also resolved that a copy of this motion, if agreed, be sent to each Member of Parliament representing North Tyneside.

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

Votes for the motion:

Councillors B Burdis, K Clark, D Cox, S Cox, N Craven, J Cruddas, E Darke, C Davis, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, M Fox, S Graham, I Grayson, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, C Johnson, H Johnson, J Kirwan, F Lott, W Lott, L Marshall, A McMullen, J Montague, J Mudzingwa, T Mulvenna, T Neira, A Newman, P Oliver, R O'Keefe, J O'Shea, S Phillips, B Pickard, N Redfearn, W Samuel, J Shaw, A Spowart, 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 Motion was approved by 40 votes to 8 votes.

C95/23 Chair's Announcements

The Chair thanked the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steve Cox, for covering his recent events and appointments.

C96/23 Elected Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor wished all the best to all candidates on the forthcoming election trail.

C97/23 Questions by Members of the Council

The Chair received an agreement from members to adding an extra 15 minutes to the meeting time to allow for the member's questions.

Question 1 – from Councillor Joe Kirwin

I am concerned that Northumbria University is aiming to reduce staff costs by approximately 5.5% before the beginning of the next financial year. This equates to a £12.5 million reduction in staff costs. Northumbria University have refused to rule out the potential for compulsory redundancies which would negatively impact North Tyneside residents who are either employed by or are studying at Northumbria University. The use of compulsory redundancies will result in damage to the reputation of higher institutions and negatively impact the quality of the education and the support that North Tyneside residents at Northumbria University currently receive.

Will the Elected Mayor write to the Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education and ask him to urgently review direct funding provided to universities.

Councillor Steven Phillips provided the following response:

Northumbria University, alongside other Higher Education institutions located in the North East, are an important and valued asset to the Region. It is vital that alongside being a major local employer that Northumbria University is able to respond to the needs of our residents. This includes young people progressing onto higher education courses, along with adults who access these important local institutions to study to improve their skills and life chances.

Yes, the Mayor will write to the Minister to ask him to urgently review direct funding provided to universities.

Question 2 – from Councillor Matthew Thirlaway

Can the Mayor or Cabinet member give an update on the situation with our schools which are having issues with their buildings?

Councillor Steven Phillips provided the following response:

I am pleased to report that all students are now back to face-to-face learning

with a range of short and medium-term solutions in place at the schools affected.

This has been a difficult and unprecedented incident which has affected the education of around 1700 pupils.

In December 2023 a small part of concrete block fell from the ceiling in Fordley Primary School. Thankfully, nobody was hurt. This prompted a proactive investigation by council officers into the cause and to review the safety at all schools in the Borough.

As a result of this investigation, three further schools were identified in February as needing further assessment to ensure their safety: Churchill Community College, Hazlewood Primary School and Grasmere Academy.

The report for Fordley Primary School was received by council officers on Monday. It showed an historical, isolated issue connected to the mixture of concrete used when the school was built in the 1960s. Investigations at the other three schools have identified similar concerns that we are investigating further.

Our priority throughout has been, and will continue to be, the safety of our pupils and staff. Officers and school staff have been working tirelessly to ensure this happens and to minimise disruption to education.

I'd like to thank school leaders, staff, pupils and the wider school communities for their support and patience; we know this is challenging.

We have used other schools and buildings in the Borough to accommodate students at affected schools, and we are grateful to those school leaders, venues and community groups for offering their support and services.

The Council is doing everything it can but has limited resources. We are prioritising funding to deal with this situation quickly, safely, and thoroughly, and have spent more than £1.5m since December. There has been no confirmation of any financial support yet from the Department for Education.

We want all our children and young people to thrive, and to be educated and supported in safe environments. I'd like to thank again the officers and schools' staff for their tireless work, and families and pupils for being patient and

supportive.

Councillor Matthew Thirlaway asked the following supplementary question:

Taking into consideration the massive cuts to local government funding imposed by successive Conservative government since 2010, does the Cabinet member believe that it should be central government that pays for the cost associated with the defective concrete?

Councillor Steven Phillips provided the following response:

It goes without saying we simply haven't got the money to deal with this type of issue. As you already pointed out Council and LA budgets have been some of the most cut Public Services since a Conservative Coalition was elected in 2010 and we've had over £140 million pound of cuts from our budget and at the same time obviously we've been forced to raise Council taxes. Yes, the government must stump up the money, and it shouldn't just be for refurb/rebuild of the schools but also the money that the council are currently spending on the measures we've took to ensure all the children are getting face to face education. I've already mentioned in my reply that it's upwards of £1.5 million so far.

Unfortunately, Churchill Community college is probably the best/worst example about how this government has totally neglected education. Under a Labour government in 2009 the school was added to the 'Building schools for the future' list of schools to receive funding for new buildings, so it was recognized back in 2009 that it needed new building. However, when the Conservative Government came into power it scrapped 'Building schools for the future' and even Michael Gove said it was a disastrous decision. Since then, Churchill Community School, which is identified as needing help, has not been able to get any source of funding to help with rebuilding so absolutely, I do think the government need to stump up, and I think it's really important that they do that.

Question 3 – from Councillor John O'Shea

Have the Government confirmed whether the Government will be continuing the Household Support fund?

Councillor Carl Johnson provided the following response:

After many months of cross party LGA campaigning, the Spring Budget confirmed the Household Support Fund would continue for a further six months to September 2024. Based on the Authority's existing allocation, this is estimated to be in the region of £1.6m. This is just a small extension, and the council as well as the rest of the Cross-party groups in the LGA will continue to campaigning for the household support fund to be a permanent addition to the local government Finance settlement.

Question 4 - from Councillor Debbie Cox

If North Tyneside council was to borrow £50 Million to spend on roads and pavements, how much would it cost the council in capital financing costs?

Councillor Hannah Johnson provided the following response:

Borrowing £50m in a single instalment would cost the Authority £4.382m per annum in capital financing costs. It's no wonder the Conservative group couldn't quite make it add up in their sums.

By contrast, the Authority's existing £2m annual contribution towards highways maintenance costs the revenue budget £0.175m per annum in the associated capital financing costs. These costs are factored into our balanced budget for next year. So, any politician in North Tyneside claiming to have a plan to invest £50 million into roads and pavements, like the Conservative group, it should be abundantly clear to residents that their plans would require an additional 4% council tax rise. It is clear the Conservative group in North Tyneside continue to mislead the public on this and they should be called out.

Question 5 - from Councillor Julie Cruddas

Can the Mayor give an update on how the 'Neat Streets' programme is going in the borough?

Councillor Hannah Johnson provided the following response:

In August last year we launched our 'Neat Streets' initiative, which supports our ambition of delivering a cleaner, greener and safer North Tyneside.

As part of our commitment to delivering this important initiative, we have

invested an additional £1.5 million to bring in extra resource to improve our estates across the Borough.

We have installed 100 new litter bins across all wards and introduced a digital reporting system for our on-street bins, making it easier for residents to report any issues, such as full bins.

We have introduced six new rapid response teams to complement the work of existing environmental maintenance teams. These teams have been improving the cleanliness and overall appearance of our neighbourhoods, focusing on those areas most in need through the removal of litter, fly tipping and vegetation.

We have also introduced three new pedestrian street sweeping machines, enabling us to target those areas which can't be accessed by larger mechanical sweeping machines. I'm pleased to report this has resulted in an additional 235 tonnes of waste being removed.

We understand that maintaining a garden can be difficult for some and this is why we are helping those tenants most in need. We have increased the number of gardens we maintain and the frequency in which we attend. 'Neat Streets' now allows us to assist over 700 tenants who without our help, would struggle.

To further support our housing tenants, we have introduced free bulky waste collections with over 400 collections carried out so far. In addition to this, we have continued with our successful estate clean-up programme where a further 44 visits have been carried out by the team. Collectively, these two initiatives have seen a further 145 tonnes of waste removed.

22 dedicated housing officers carry out regular visits across our estates and engage with residents and tenants. We have also increased our Community Protection Officers by two and their purpose is to focus on private properties and gardens. As part of their visits, officers have carried out nearly 3000 garden inspections and have engaged with over 800 residents with the intention of helping residents to improve their own spaces.

It should also be pointed out that all the opposition groups on this Council voted against the Neat Street's budget this year, thereby voting against extra investment in our green spaces and communities.

Question 6 – from Councillor Jim Montague

Can the Mayor confirm that there have never been any plans for a bus lane to be introduced in North Tyneside on the Coast Road?

Councillor Hannah Johnson provided the following response:

I can confirm that there have never been any plans for a bus lane to be introduced by the Council on the Coast Road within North Tyneside. I can also confirm very clearly that Labour in North Tyneside would strongly oppose the introduction of any bus lanes on the coast road which will make it even more difficult to move around and redistribute traffic in our estates. This is once again the Conservatives misleading the public, and there's never been a plan considered by North Tyneside Council on a bus lane in the borough and we are the only body which could approve such a bus lane.

Question 7 – from Councillor Davey Drummond

Councils across the country facing cuts from the Conservative Government, have chosen to close, privatise or pass the burden to communities of leisure centres, libraries, and parks. North Tyneside's Labour administration have a proud track record of protecting these vital services, can the Mayor confirm it is her intention that this continues?

Councillor Hannah Johnson provided the following response:

First of all, you are quite right that we should be justifiably proud of our Leisure Centres, Libraries and Parks in North Tyneside. The high usage of these facilities and the great feedback we receive from our residents' backs this up. Rather than just protecting what we have, we continue to invest and improve these services.

For example, we have recently finished the full refurbishment of Forest Hall Library on the back of the publication of our new Libraries and Community Hub Strategy.

We have also recently modernised and installed new state of the art equipment into our gyms at Tynemouth Pool, The Lakeside Centre and Hadrian Leisure Centre and are planning the same soon for Waves Leisure Centre.

As for our award-winning Parks, I'm sure you will have all seen the fantastic

improvements made to our tennis courts and running track.

So, to answer your question, I can confirm that we will continue to protect these important services at a time when others are choosing to close or privatise them because of Government cuts.

Question 8 - from Councillor Pat Oliver

Does North Tyneside Council have the power to reopen Rake Lane 24 hours and Battle Hill walk in centres?

Councillor Carl Johnson provided the following response:

This has often been subject to misleading information and political leaflets, I'm sad to confirm that the council does not have this power, no matter how much we wish to reopen Rake Lane or Battle Hill Walk-in centres, which this Labour group run a campaign on to save. This would be an illegal use of this council's funding to spend money on that because we do not have the power to reopen them. The planning and Commissioning of all urgent and emergency care services across the North East and North Cumbria rests with the Integrated Care Board.

Question 9 - from Councillor Cath Davis

The ongoing works on the embankment at the North Shields fish Quay and restricted access to the quayside is causing a considerable drop in footfall at the Fish Quay. This situation has been ongoing for 18 months. Business owners are complaining that their trade has suffered terribly, and some have even had to close with the loss of jobs. They acknowledged that there is to be drop-in information session on the 18th March to field questions at the Maritime Chambers, to Wilmott Dixon the contractors. However, this type of measure is too little too late and business owners want access to the fish Quay improved immediately to encourage visitors and prevent any further loss of business. If this measure is not a possibility are the council going to compensate these said businesses for losses due to this situation.

Councillor Carl Johnson provided the following response:

The delivery of the Riverside Embankment Walkway is a major infrastructure scheme that will improve connectivity and footfall between the Fish Quay and the

Town Centre. Whilst we acknowledge that it has caused some disruption for businesses on the Fish Quay, we would dispute the suggestion that the construction of this key piece of infrastructure is the cause for some businesses to cease trading.

Throughout the construction phases, the Council has provided support to businesses, including through the permitting of additional outdoor seating areas for numerous hospitality businesses during the Summer period of 2023, and helping eligible business access grant support.

In order to mitigate the impact on businesses, the works have also been undertaken outside of peak visitor season as much as possible with piling works carried out predominantly through later autumn and winter.

The drop-in session on the 18th March is part of our ongoing engagement with businesses and residents. We continue to engage with businesses and residents through direct letters, monthly newsletters, and progress updates via social media.

The Riverside Embankment Walkway will provide step-free access between North Shields Town Centre, the Fish Quay, and onwards to the North Tyneside Coast.

It was a key project contained within the North Shields Masterplan reflecting a longstanding need to improve connectivity between these two economic areas. The proposal was subject to extensive public consultation with residents and businesses through both the masterplan and planning application process.

As was stated before, on a Case-by-case basis we'll always look at any export we can offer businesses if they come forward to the Council.

Councillor Cath Davis asked the following supplementary question:

Some of the businesses have said that they've received a letter to say that they're going to open the road for Easter, but then close again and then open and then the access will be closed again till the end of May. Is there is there no way that the council can just have this access open so they can continue with their business trade?

Councillor Carl Johnson provided the following response:

I don't know if you've seen the size of the heavy machinery down the embankment working there but it takes a lot to move it off and onto the site. We are open through the busy Easter period because we know that will be a key trading period for the businesses along there, so we're going above and beyond to move it off the site to let them have the maximum possible flexibility during a key trading period. We'll work as fast as we can to get the entire Road open as soon as possible.