

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

24 November 2022

Title: Motions

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

Motion 1 signed by Councillors Carole Burdis, Carl Johnson, Janet Hunter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion 2 by Councillors Cath Davis, Julie Cruddas and Carole Burdis

Liz Truss, Prime Minister for 45 days, stated she was 'completely committed' to maintaining the triple lock on pensions. Given the rising cost of living crisis, especially gas and electricity and fuel costs, many elderly people are choosing between heating and eating. The state pension is vital to most pensioners, particularly women, who haven't been able to build up a private pension. UK state pensions compare dismally with most of their European counterparts.

Therefore, North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to write to the New Prime Minister and his Chancellor to ensure that the triple lock is preserved to make sure that some of our most vulnerable residents' pensions are not reduced by the rising cost of living.

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

Motion 3 by Councillors Erin Parker Leonard, Matthew Thirlaway and Debbie Cox

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) Women

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

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

Council notes that

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

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

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

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

Motion 4 by Councillors Eddie Darke, Carl Johnson Brian Burdis

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

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

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

Motion 5 by Councillors Chris Johnston, Lewis Bartoli and Olly Scargill

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

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

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

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

Motion 6 by Councillors Liam Bones, Lewis Bartoli and Olly Scargill

Restaurant Week

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

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

North Tyneside Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to:

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

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

Motion 7 - by Councillors Olly Scargill, Liam Bones and Lewis Bartoli

IVF - IN VITRO FERTILISATION

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

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

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

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

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

Council asks the Mayor to write to the North East and North Cumbria ICS, asking to review this policy and remove this section from their IVF access criteria.

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