

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

16 March 2023

Title: Motions

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

Motion 1 signed by Councillors R O'Keefe, M Fox and C Johnson

North Tyneside council notes:

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

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

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

North Tyneside council believes:

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

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

North Tyneside council:

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

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

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

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

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

North Tyneside Council notes

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

North Tyneside Council believes

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

North Tyneside Council calls upon the Mayor to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor to :

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

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

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

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

Local Plan Motion

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

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

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

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

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

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