

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

21 September 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 Cath Davis, Gary Madden and Michelle Fox

“North Tyneside Council notes that:

The decision of Cabinet to proceed with the creation of a North East Combined Mayoral Authority.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayor, Jamie Driscoll, and Cabinet delivered on their pledge to deliver this devolution deal.

Council believes that:

The approach of the North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayor and Cabinet in working collaboratively with people from all backgrounds has been welcome.

The creation of a North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) can unlock the potential of the people of the North East through continuing collaborative working and innovative solutions to the challenges in our region.

Council resolves to:

Write to the North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayor, Jamie Driscoll, and Cabinet commending them for the work that they have undertaken on behalf of the people of the North of Tyne.”

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

Motion 2 signed by Councillors Willie Samuel, Debbie Cox and Julie Cruddas

Council notes that there are an increasingly wide range of concerns around the NHS directly impacting our residents. After 13 years of Conservative Government outcomes for our residents are increasingly concerning.

Council recently set up the cross-party emergency task and finish group to examine the effectiveness of emergency care, but the issue goes much wider than this. The Government's decision to remove targets for cancer diagnosis and treatment presumably because said targets were not being met is a worrying example of this trend.

Council therefore agrees to widen the remit of the task and finish group to look at all aspects of healthcare provision and policy which impacts on the workload of the NHS emergency response services and the effectiveness of that response.

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

Motion 3 signed by Councillors Hannah Johnson, Carl Johnson and Matthew Thirlaway

Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Mayor and Cabinet that we are investing further in our estates with the neat streets campaign.

This is a welcome significant investment in staff and financial resources to further improve our area it will see new staff, vehicles and equipment deployed across North Tyneside, with a special focus on keeping housing estates, open spaces, town centres and the coastline neat and tidy.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to all political groups on North Tyneside Council urging them to include this funding in their budget proposals for next year.

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

Motion 4 signed by Councillors Sandra Graham, Eddie Darke and Debbie Cox

North Tyneside council unanimously voted to declare a Climate Emergency. The council has also since created a net zero action plan and is making sound progress against it.

The Tyne & Wear Local Government Pension Scheme, holds investments in fossil fuel focussed companies.

North Tyneside council calls upon the mayor and our representatives on the pensions committee to

- Urge the pensions committee to reconsider its current investment in companies planning to increase extraction.
- explore shortening the timeframe for total divestment from fossil fuels.

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

Motion 5 signed by Councillors Olly Scargill, Chris Johnston and Liam Bones

Road Safety

From speeding problems to road markings, we take seriously the complaints we receive from residents about dangerous driving, unsafe roads, and the often inadequate response to these problems.

It is regrettable that the Council's response to road safety issues can be too slow or defeatist – particularly when councillors are told that there is no problem because 'the average driver does not speed' or because 'there has not been a fatal accident'.

Council asks the Mayor to bring forward a speeding prevention plan, which includes:

- Change the way speeding problem areas are identified, moving away from the average to a system which reflects a mix of incidents numbers, police concerns, resident complaints, councillor reports and maximum speeds recorded
- Develop a strategy for dealing with anti-social driving outside of sociable hours
- Improve the way that Council logs and reports upon residents' speeding complaints and to frequently communicate this data to Northumbria Police
- Work more closely with the police on the installation of 20mph zones to ensure these can be effectively enforced
- Work with Northumbria Police to establish Community Speed Watch schemes in problem areas
- Introduce a system for councillors to request urgent junction protections be installed in areas of their wards where poor visibility is hazardous
- Prioritise the re-painting of faded junction lines over other road markings where the faded junction lines present a danger to drivers' safety

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

Motion 6 signed by Councillors I McAlpine, Liam Bones and Olly Scargill

Motion title: Pets as prizes

North Tyneside is privileged to hold a great many funfairs and similar events. In decades past it was considered the norm to win a goldfish or other small animal when in attendance. Contemporary views on animal welfare recognise the problems with unexpectedly handing out small animals to residents, who may be unprepared for the commitment that caring for them entails. Currently, North Tyneside strongly discourages this practice but has no formal provision in place to ban it outright on Council land.

Issuing pets as prizes is now widely acknowledged to be cruel and anachronistic. Above all else, the methods of their interim holding and transportation cause significant trauma to the animals and in some circumstances their death.

The RSPCA campaign actively on this issue with clear guidance, and this motion asks North Tyneside to join more than 50 other Local Authorities in prohibiting this practice at a local level. It is right for every resident to look after small animals if they wish to do so, but with the proper handover and aftercare available from proper pet distributors.

This council asks the Mayor to:

1. Immediately prohibit the practice of giving out pets as prizes.
2. Introduce appropriate measures to communicate, and enforce this, prior to the summer 2024 season.

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