

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

23 November 2023

### Title: Questions by Members of the Public

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

#### 1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Christie of Wallsend

On the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 have 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 wording 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 by a neutral observer as being disingenuous.

As a result, I'm 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<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to include the hearing of evidence to the Committee?

## 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?

Ref: ONS Loneliness rates and well-being indicators by local authority [<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/lonelinessratesandwellbeingindicatorsbylocalauthority>]

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

In October this year, 'Climate Emergency UK' published their 'Climate Scorecards for Councils'. North Tyneside Council's overall score of 27% was below the average of 35%. In particular, it scores NTC very poorly in the 'Governance & 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?