

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

23 November 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, Michelle Fox and Gary Madden

North Tyneside welcomes the new Tobacco and Vapes Bill to create a generation which is smoke free. We as a council should be proactive and implement measures on single use vapes. The health and wellbeing are paramount concerns for North Tyneside Council.

The local economy can benefit from promoting healthier alternatives to smoking, such as smoking cessation programs and support for individuals looking to quit. It is acknowledged that the use of vapes is widely used as a smoking alternative. However, the use of single-use vapes and electronic cigarettes has surged in popularity, especially among young people. Indeed, vapes are packaged, flavoured and promoted in a way that appeals to young people.

There is growing evidence of the health risks associated with vaping, including potential long-term consequences on respiratory health;

With this in mind North Tyneside agrees the following measures to be considered:

- a. provide resources to public awareness campaigns, highlighting the health risks associated with vaping and the importance of smoking cessation programs.
- b. campaign to promote the negative impacts of vaping in schools and resource programmes specifically targeted at young people under 18 to reduce numbers using vapes
- c. Support research initiatives to better understand the long-term health effects of vaping and its impact on our community.

- d. promote responsible disposal practices for vaping products, including designated collection points to reduce litter and environmental pollution.

We believe that by taking these actions, we can help to protect the health of our residents, reduce the environmental impact of single-use vapes, and promote a safer and more sustainable North Tyneside for all.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from this motion.

Any actions to implement the motion if approved are executive in nature and are therefore a matter for the Elected Mayor and/or Cabinet to determine.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in relation to the Public Health-related aspects of this motion. The Authority already undertakes public awareness campaigns as part of its statutory public health duty to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population through existing commissioned service arrangements, funded by the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. As long as this activity remains within the existing budgets, parts (a) and (b) of the motion do not create any additional financial pressure. Part (c) is not expected to have any financial implications, as this research is led and funded nationally.

With regards to disposal of vaping products, the Authority already undertakes work in this area through existing Environmental Service budgets. Unless activity in this area was expanded beyond existing service plans and/or any additional specific grants received, there would be no financial implications from this element of the motion.

Motion 2 signed by Councillors Ian McAlpine, Chris Johnston, Lewis Bartoli

North Tyneside Council:

- Recognises the importance of small businesses to our local economy and the pressure they are under due to the rising cost of living caused by the war in Ukraine.
- Acknowledges some of the great work that already goes on to encourage residents to shop locally, including the Shop NT project run by the authority and other projects run by the North of Tyne Combined authority through the government's shared prosperity fund.
- Encourages as many residents as possible to shop locally this Christmas, because we know when we support local businesses money is reinvested into our local economy, making our area an even better place to live
- Asks the Mayor to introduce 2-hours of free parking in our town centres for the duration of December, encouraging more visitors to our outstanding small businesses. The scheme should allow all council-run town centre parking to have a 2-hour no return option while also protecting the option to pay for longer for those who use our car parks regularly. Council believes this would deliver a well needed boost to our small businesses.

Legal Implications

The appropriate legal process would need to be followed to temporarily suspend the application of parking charges on the Off Street and On Street parking Orders that govern the parking arrangements in our Town Centres in the Borough.

Any actions to implement the motion if approved are executive in nature and are therefore a matter for the Elected Mayor and/or Cabinet to determine.

Financial Implications

The introduction of additional free parking is outside of existing budget forecasts, therefore this motion cannot be accommodated within the existing service budget unless corresponding savings and/or additional income could be identified. Based on the parking income generated during December 2022 for the relevant car parks, it is estimated that the

lost income would be in the region of £27,000. There could also be a potential loss of forecast civil enforcement income during the period. It is not possible to confirm the potential amount, as this would be dependent upon whether the necessary legal arrangements for the suspension can be introduced within the required timeframes. Failure to do so for some or all of December would limit the ability to enforce pay and display restrictions for the car park outside of the 2-hour free period.

At present, no proposal has been provided to compensate for the loss of income. Therefore, unless Cabinet is minded to find a suitable compensatory scheme by viring money from other parts of the budget, this motion could not be agreed without a detrimental impact on the current budget forecast for the year.

Motion 3 signed by Councillors John Johnsson, Olly Scargill, Liam Bones

The recent spike in dangerous dog attacks by the so called XL Bully breed, including attacks in North Tyneside, has been shocking. Council welcomes the efforts of responsible dog owners who train their dogs properly resulting in well behaved dogs which offer companionship and enhance our communities.

North Tyneside Council:

- Welcomes the Government's decision to add the XL Bully type to the list of dogs prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act. Meaning that from 1 February it will become illegal to own an XL Bully dog if it is not registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs.
- Asks the Mayor to work with Housing to establish any policy areas in relation council housing tenancies that could be tightened to ensure a more robust stance on ownership of dogs where they are found to play a part in anti-social behaviour.

Legal Implications

If a review of the Authority's policies recommends any changes to the terms and conditions of the Authority's secure tenancy agreements in respect of Council Housing, those changes will be subject to appropriate consultation pursuant to the requirements of the Housing Act 1985.

Any actions to implement the motion if approved are executive in nature and are therefore a matter for the Elected Mayor and/or Cabinet to determine.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the motion. The Authority will not have any additional responsibilities arising from these dogs being added to the Index of Exempted Dogs. If the motion is agreed for the housing element, and this ultimately results in changes made to Council policy around tenancies being proposed, the financial implications would need to be reconsidered at that stage.