

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

18 January 2024

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 Councillor M Thirlaway, Councillor J Cruddas and Councillor D Cox

North Tyneside Council acknowledges the devastating consequences of suicide for the individual, their family and friends, and society as a whole. We also acknowledge; that the North East has the highest rate of suicide in England and Wales, that suicide is three times more common among men and boys, and that those living in deprivation also have a higher risk of suicide.

North Tyneside Council is committed to preventing suicide and believes that suicide prevention is a policy priority, and that local government plays a key role in suicide prevention and mental health care.

- We call on the Elected Mayor to work with council officers to ensure that all council staff, including staff working in outsourced services, and Elected Members complete suicide awareness training.
- We call on the Elected Mayor to ask council officers to conduct a comprehensive review of council services, to identify areas of improvement in suicide prevention, and to present their findings and recommendations at a meeting of Council.
- We call on the Elected Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requesting increased funding for suicide prevention and mental health care.

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

Motion 2 Signed by Councillors C Johnson, Councillor J Hunter and Councillor A Newman

Recently it was announced that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) had proposed plans to close Wallsend fire station between 1800 and 0800, turning Wallsend fire station into a daytime only service. This council notes the financial situation of TWFRS, however, we believe that closing this station during nighttime hours would significantly impact on public safety.

This council therefore asks the mayor to write to TWFRS outlining North Tyneside Council's objections to closing Wallsend fire station at night and urge them to investigate all ways to ensure Wallsend fire station remains operational 24 hours a day.

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

Motion Signed by Councillor H Johnson, Councillor E Parker-Leonard and Councillor K Clark

When the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) comes into being in 2024, it will be responsible for the aspirations and life chances of over one million women and girls living in County Durham, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and Newcastle.

It can be tempting for policy makers to think that women and men use public services in the same way, but this is often not the case. Considering the specific needs of women and girls from the beginning results in better policy making, that works for everyone.

We call upon the Mayor to support One Million Women and Girls campaign to ensure that NEMCA should explicitly consider the specific impact on women and girls in every policy/strategy developed, seeking to maximize positive and mitigate negative impacts on the one million women and girls who will be directly affected by any decisions.

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

Motion Signed by Councillor L Bones, Councillor L Bartoli and Councillor C Johnston

Roads and pavements are at the top of our residents priorities, and are one of the most basic things that a Council provides for its residents – yet the 2023 Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report shows our roads and pavements are worse than ever.

Council notes that:

- The report states that “The authorities additional £2m investment has made a significant contribution to maintaining the Network. However, the number of yellow and amber roads has increased considerably. This indicates that consideration should now be given to additional investment in the network in order to avoid further decline”.
- In just the last year the percentage of roads deemed to be ‘good’ has plummeted from 37% to just 16%.
- Just 3% of our pavements are deemed to be a ‘good’ standard.
- The Government has provided over £3.3million directly to North Tyneside for pothole repairs and over £14million to the combined authority, including an additional £500,000 just last month.
- The Mayor’s 2024/25 budget does not include any additional funding as requested in the Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Information Report

Council believes:

- The condition of our roads and pavements is now worse than ever.
- The Mayor must take urgent action to prevent this situation escalating further.

Council asks the Mayor to:

- Bring forward an urgent plan to make progress on the roads and pavements backlog and start the vital work to bring our roads and pavements up to scratch.

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

Motion Signed by Councillor M Fox, Councillor C Davis and Councillor G Madden

North Tyneside Council has a strong track record of fighting to reduce violence against women and girls. We can also be proud of our White Ribbon status and the awareness this has allowed us to raise in relation to this important issue.

In 2023, the Liberal Democrat Party made a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to all 43 Police Forces in England and Wales. They found that more than 1,100 Police Officers are currently under investigation for sexual or domestic abuse. Of these (as reported in the Guardian newspaper on 23rd December 2023) one in 7 have been allowed to “carry on working as normal despite the severity of the offences.”

But unfortunately, these figures do not reflect the full picture as only 28 of the 43 Police Forces in England and Wales responded to the FOI request. Disappointingly, Northumbria Police was one of those who did not respond.

We believe that women and girls in North Tyneside have a right to feel safe, especially when they are at their most vulnerable. It is important that our regional police force is transparent about its failings, in order to address them and to gain the trust and confidence of women and girls in North Tyneside. To this end they must be willing to share key information about how many of its Officers are, or have been, under investigation for sexual and domestic violence, and out of those investigations; how many have been suspended from duty, dismissed or prosecuted.

We believe it is essential that women and girls in North Tyneside feel assured that the Police Force, which is meant to protect them, has robust processes in place to ensure that Police Officers themselves are not perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence.

Therefore, this council asks that our Mayor write to the Northumbria Police Chief Constable and the PCC to request that the following information is released

- the number of Police Officers from April 2019 to March 2023 who have been accused of sexual or domestic violence offences;
- Of that number, how many have been investigated;
- Of the officers who have been investigated, how many were allowed to continue in their normal duties during the investigation;
- Following an investigation, how many officers were prosecuted and/or dismissed:
- An explanation of why the FOI submitted by the Liberal Democrat Party was not responded to.

We would also like to stress that this information should be made available to the council within the normal 20 working days timescale that applies when an FOI request is made.

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