

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

14 March 2024

### Motions

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

#### **Motion 1 - Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Planning Applications - signed by Councillors C Davis, M Fox and G Madden**

The Community Independent Group moves that North Tyneside Council should take into account the health impacts of air pollution, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations.

This aligns with our commitment to prioritise public health; cleaner air and well-being in urban development decisions. It also is in keeping with the government guidance on healthy and safe communities which states that planning and health need to be taken together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population). The motion is also consistent with the North Tyneside plan for a Green and Caring North Tyneside.

Council therefore requests that the Director for Regeneration and Economic Development:

1. undertakes an evaluation of how the Authority's Planning process could be adapted to take into account the health impacts of air pollution, particularly in areas with higher prevalence of poorer health outcomes, when evaluating planning applications for petrol stations; and
2. reports the findings of the evaluation to the Planning Committee for it to then determine whether to implement any changes to the planning process in relation to the determination of planning applications for petrol stations."

## **Legal Implications**

The impact of a petrol station development on air quality is already considered as a part of the planning process, but the ability to consider specific health impacts or give air quality impacts specific weight for developments in certain areas is limited by the data available.

It may be possible to produce or require developers to produce health impact assessments (HIA) for certain developments. Various authorities have adopted guidance on HIAs and their use is promoted by Public Health England. Health outcomes are referred to in the NPPF and our local policies and the Authority has duties around health improvement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The PPG on Healthy and Safe Communities mentions HIAs in the context of consulting the Director of Public health. Further evaluation of whether it would be possible to require HIAs would be necessary.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion.

**Motion 2 – NHS Dentists – signed by Councillors Willie Samuel, Julie Cruddas and Eddie Darke**

North Tyneside Council notes the appalling lack of dentists accepting new NHS patients in the Borough and the increasing number of dental practices moving to private patients only. This failure has been apparent for some time now, but action taken by the Conservative Government has failed to address this situation. Poor dental health, particularly amongst children, is having serious consequences for the future health of our residents.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to Northumbria Health Trust and to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask for urgent action to address the problem.

**Legal Implications**

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

**Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion.

**Motion 3 - Civility in Public life – signed by Councillors Erin Parker-Leonard, Hannah Johnson, Willie Samuel**

Robust debate and scrutiny are essential aspects of our democratic process; abuse and intimidation shouldn't have to be. Abuse can make elected representatives feel they need to step down and put potential future candidates off standing altogether – with women, people from a minority ethnic background, and those with disabilities suffering a disproportionate level of this behaviour. As Elected Members we must lead by example. We all have a responsibility to challenge this and have the duty to set the tone when campaigning.

We call upon candidates to take the civility pledge and run a respectful campaign and to reject intimidation in the run-up to general and local elections in the UK and consider sharing the pledge on social media to strengthen the message.

We call upon North Tyneside Council to endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations and ask the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider signing up on behalf of the Authority to the Civility and respect pledge put forward by the National Association of Local Council, specifically signpost all Elected Members to the Local Governments Associations (LGA) Debate not Hate toolkit and ensure it is included in inductions of Elected Members.

We call upon all Elected Members to read the call to action and endorse the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission recommendations.

We call upon all the leaders of each political party who stands candidates in North Tyneside to read, understand and agree to the key points in the joint statement on conduct of political party members created by the Committee on standards in public life.

**Legal Implications**

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

**Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion.

**Motion 4 - Levelling up – signed by Councillors Carl Johnson, Louise Marshal, Frank Lott and Tracey Hallway**

Only 20% of Towns funding and a similarly low percentage of 'Levelling up fund' funding has been spent, despite being awarded many years ago in some cases.

Government dithering over signing off business cases have caused costs to skyrocket because of the Conservatives mismanagement of the economy, this will mean many of the projects will never complete.

Michael Gove's Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) recently handed over £2 billion in levelling up funds back to the treasury, while giving nothing to our borough.

The Conservative Government have rejected every single application for levelling up funds North Tyneside Council has submitted and placed us as a priority two area.

We have shovel ready schemes in Wallsend, North Shields and the North West ready to go.

Council calls upon the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities and call upon him to release underspend funding at DLUCH to North Tyneside council for our shovel ready projects.

**Legal Implications**

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

**Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion. Should the Authority have the opportunity to bid for additional funding, the financial implications would be considered as part of the existing Investment Programme Board governance.

**Motion 5 – Support Measures for Tynemouth Business Community affected by Major Infrastructure Projects – signed by Councillors Chris Johnston, Olly Scargill and Ian McAlpine**

The current infrastructure projects undertaken in Tynemouth, notably the creation of a one-way system and cycle path, have resulted in significant disruption to residents and businesses alike, mirroring the challenges faced during the embankment walkway construction in North Shields. The adverse effects on local businesses in Tynemouth, particularly along Front Street, Percy Park Road, and Grand Parade, are evidenced by substantial drops in revenue compared to previous years, posing a threat to their sustainability and viability.

The standstill traffic along the seafront and Broadway experienced every weekend is dissuading potential visitors and diminishing footfall, compounding the economic strains faced by local enterprises. Recognizing the proactive approach taken in North Shields fish quay, where the Council applied business rate relief to mitigate the loss in trade experienced by affected businesses this Council requests the Mayor and Cabinet to explore support measures for the business community in Tynemouth.

The support focuses on alleviating the economic burden and fostering resilience amidst on-going infrastructure developments. These measures may include:

- Implementing a rent relief scheme tailored to the needs of affected businesses on Front Street, Percy Park Road, and Grand Parade.
- Suspending parking charges in the vicinity to encourage patronage and ease accessibility for customers.
- Providing financial support for public transport costs to facilitate mobility and mitigate traffic congestion.
- Any other appropriate schemes deemed necessary to safeguard the economic vitality of local businesses during this period of transition.

This motion seeks to demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting the Tynemouth business community and ensuring that they receive equitable assistance akin to that provided in other affected areas. Through collaborative efforts, North Tyneside are committed to mitigating the adverse impacts of infrastructure projects and foster a thriving local economy for the benefit of all residents and businesses alike.

## **Legal Implications**

If the measures set out in the bullet points above are to be explored, one of the issues that would require exploration is ascertaining if there are any legal requirements and processes that would need to be met before any of the measures or schemes are introduced.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications from the proposed motion with regards to exploring support measures to the business community in Tynemouth. However, it should be noted that the proposed measures, relating to types of financial support highlighted within the motion, would all have direct financial implications. These would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and would depend upon a range of factors to understand how this aligned with existing relief measures and the potential timescales. The costs of the Authority providing financial support would need to be met from the Authority's revenue budget, the scale and value of which cannot be quantified at present, but which would be outside of existing planned expenditure levels.

## **Motion 6 – Real Living Wage – signed by Councillors Cath Davis, Gary Madden and Michelle Fox**

Information from the Living Wage Foundation shows that there are 20 organisations in North Tyneside that pay their employees a Real Living Wage, which is defined as £12.00 per hour. North Tyneside Council is not one of them though it is acknowledged that the Council is working towards this goal.

There are other Councils in the North-East that have decided to become an accredited Real Living Wage employer, including both Newcastle City Council and Sunderland City Council.

Council resolves to request that the Elected Mayor and Cabinet:

1. applauds the work of the Tyne and Wear Citizens Group who have been campaigning on the Real Living Wage in the North-East for several years;
2. requests Officers to explore the financial implications of adopting the Real living wage and how these costs may be factored into the budgeting process in future years; and
3. agrees to encourage other employers in North Tyneside to also become an accredited real living wage employer.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion. If the Authority decides to implement the Real Living Wage appropriate consultation and engagement with the Trade Unions and staff will be necessary. This would be dealt with at the appropriate time.

Determination to implement, or not implement, the Real Living wage is an Executive function and is therefore reserved to Cabinet.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposed motion. Any changes arising from direct staff costs or the cost of the Authority's supply chain would need to be incorporated into proposals for future years' budgets.



## **Motion 7 - Support for the Community Power Pledge – signed by Councillors Cath Davis, Gary Madden and Michelle Fox**

Community empowerment is crucial for fostering local development and engagement. Momentum is growing across the country for the proposal of a Community Power Act. This would be a transformative piece of legislation that would give local people the powers they need to shape the places where they live aims to enhance community involvement in decision-making processes;

1. The Act proposes to **Establish three new community rights** to take ownership of spaces, public services and investment;
2. **Create Community Covenants** to bring local people, organisations and local authorities together; and
3. **Establish a Community Power Commissioner** to uphold new community rights

It is imperative for our local representatives to actively support initiatives that promote community empowerment.

Therefore, Council resolves to request the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to consider:

1. acknowledging the significance of the Community Power Pledge in fostering community participation;
2. recognising the positive impact of empowering communities has in decision-making processes;
3. urging all Members of Parliament representing North Tyneside to actively support and endorse the Community Power Pledge at the national level; and
4. committing to working collaboratively with local communities to implement measures that align with the principles of the Community Power Pledge.

It is also resolved that a copy of this motion, if agreed, be sent to each Member of Parliament representing North Tyneside.

### **Legal Implications**

There is a national campaign across the country for the introduction of a Community Power Act. Until such time as any such Act is enacted and any "community powers" are introduced, the Authority will be required to operate in accordance with the existing powers that it has in relation to fostering community participation, making lawful decisions, and working with the local community. Should the Community Power Act be enacted then the legal implications for the Authority flowing from that Act would be considered at that time.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion.

## **Motion 8 - Motion on the Tynemouth Palestine Mural – signed by Councillor Liam Bones, John Johnsson and Lewis Bartoli**

North Tyneside Council recognises Concerns Regarding the Palestinian Mural

North Tyneside Council acknowledges the significant role of public art in reflecting our community's values and aspirations.

Upon confirmation from the Campaign Against Antisemitism, it has been brought to our attention that the imagery of the octopus in the Palestinian mural in Tynemouth evokes historical anti-Semitic tropes, notably utilised in propaganda during World War II by figures like Nazi propagandist Joseph Plank and earlier during the Dreyfus Affair in France.

Given the alarming increase in global antisemitic attacks amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, there are genuine concerns that the presence of such imagery in public spaces could contribute to the hatred and intolerance directed towards Jewish people.

North Tyneside Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to combatting bigotry and discrimination within our community. Consequently, the Council does not support the reinstatement of the Palestinian mural to any public location within our borough, acknowledging the valid concerns raised by the Campaign Against Antisemitism regarding the mural's content.

Furthermore, the Council commits to collaborating with relevant stakeholders to review processes for all future public art installations. These processes aim to prevent the inclusion of any content that may perpetuate anti-Semitism or foster hatred and intolerance.

### **Legal Implications**

Any decision to reinstate or not reinstate the mural in question is not a matter for full Council. This is an Executive matter and would require determination by the Elected Mayor and Cabinet.

The Authority (through Cabinet in this instance) is required when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which are to: -

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and in this regard in particular the need to
  - tackle prejudice; and
  - promote understanding.

A relevant protected characteristic includes race and religion or belief.

Section 149 of the Act is often referred as the “public sector equality duty”. As this is a duty, section 149 of the Act is a statutory duty placed on the Authority to observe and have regard to each time it exercises its functions.

In addition to the equalities considerations, the Authority (through Cabinet in this instance) has a further statutory duty imposed on it by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This section requires the Authority when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, amongst other things, crime and disorder in the Borough (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed motion.