

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

23 September 2021

Title: Motions

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

1. Motion signed by Councillors S Brockbank, L Bartoli and L Bones

Motion to North Tyneside Council – support for refugees and service personnel.

The horror of the Taliban taking over Afghanistan remains writ large in all our minds – and rightly so.

The oppression of groups ranging from women to other faith groups, from the LGBTQ community to those who have served the people in a military role, is a human crisis. There are many differing views as to whether it was right to withdraw from this troubled theatre of war, but as local politicians it is incumbent on us to ensure that North Tyneside Council has made all preparations to welcome those, who have been assessed by Her Majesty's Government as needing our protection and ensure that they have access to services.

Equally, the impact on the heroic service personnel who have protected and, in sad cases, died for the cause of freedom in Afghanistan must be considered and the Council must ensure that the bravery shown is reflected in the speed and quality of the service that our military can expect.

We call on the Elected Mayor and Cabinet to:

1. Re-assure Council and residents that all preparations have been made to accommodate refugees.
2. Re-assure Council that service personnel will be at the front of any queue of service provision.
3. Provide Council with a clear plan as to how arrangements will be monitored and reviewed.

Legal Implications

Whilst the first request has no legal issues, the second request may be problematic, as it seems to ensure that “service personnel” are at “the front of any queue of service provision”. In many cases, service provision is provided on the basis of need rather than ‘first come; first served’. Were the Council to disregard need when appropriate, it would be open to legal challenges and potential damages claims. With regard to the third request, providing this does not give rise to the risk of identifying individuals, the plan details can be shared.

Financial Implications

Should funding from Government be insufficient to cover the costs of the infrastructure that is needed to support refugees and service personnel.

2. Motion signed by Councillors A Newman, G Bell, and C Burdis

North Tyneside Council notes:

- Veterans' mental health continues to be an issue with many veterans suffering from a number complex issues including PTSD.
- Local authorities are often best placed to give aid to the armed forces community living in their areas.
- North Tyneside council as an excellent record of pioneering initiatives to support our armed forces community, however without dedicated funding the authority is limited in what it can provide.

North Tyneside council calls upon the Mayor to:

- write to both the chancellor Rishi Sunak and the minister for veterans affairs Leo Docherty to request that they supply ringfenced funding to help support local services dedicated to our armed forces personnel

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this motion.

Financial Implications

Should funding be granted to support local services dedicated to armed forces personnel, there is a risk that there would be a shortfall and any funding awarded is not sufficient.

3. Motion signed by Councillors W Samuel, A McMullen and S Day

Council notes:

- Social care spending nationally currently accounts for nearly half of all spending in councils nationally.
- The Conservative government has cut over £127 million from North Tyneside's council's budget and transferred responsibility for paying for social care to local residents and businesses. With the council tax rises in the past few years being as a result and mainly made up of the social care precept.
- Government contribution to council spending has gone down from 50% to 10% in the past 8 years with the government instead placing the burden on residents and businesses.
- Nationally the Conservatives have left 1.6 million elderly and disabled people without the help they need.

North Tyneside council believes:

- The governments 'plan' for social care would force the burden for paying onto the low paid and young working population.
- The conservative government's plan would result in a tax on jobs through employers NI contribution.
- The plan hammers those low paid working in social care at the same time as facing a cut in Universal Credit, they'll also face the biggest burden from the national insurance increase while the government once again fails to improve their often poor terms and conditions.

North Tyneside council calls upon the Mayor to:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise the funds via taxes or other routes which share the burden more equitably across society and fairly reflect ability to pay.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this motion.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this motion.

4. Motion signed by Councillors H Johnson, C Johnson and K Clark

North Tyneside Council Notes that:

- The process of bringing in Universal Credit under a Tory government has been chaotic and confusing for the residents of North Tyneside.
- That the increase of £20 to Universal Credit since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic has helped the poorest residents in North Tyneside.
- Almost 40% of Universal Credit claimants are in work.

North Tyneside Council believes that:

- The government should listen to calls from the Labour Party to stop these plans and make the £20 uplift to Universal Credit permanent.
- Some of the poorest residents in North Tyneside will be the most affected by these changes, leaving many unable to afford to eat or heat their homes over winter.
- These changes will lead to an increase in the use of food banks as families struggle to afford food.

North Tyneside Council calls upon the Mayor to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asking them to reconsider these changes given the affect they will have on residents in North Tyneside.
- Call on the government to listen to the Labour Party and other organisations and make the £20 uplift to Universal Credit permanent.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this motion.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this motion.