

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

25 November 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 L Bartoli, C Johnston and L Bones

Tynemouth Remembrance Parade and Service

On the 14th of November the Councillors for Tynemouth were proud to lay wreaths, with the Council's crest emblazoned in their centre, on the war memorial in Tynemouth Green. Sadly, the organisation of, and funding for, this Remembrance event has once again fallen on the shoulders of the residents, community groups and faith groups of Tynemouth. The Church of the Holy Saviour launched a 'GoFundMe' page, whilst the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, the Village Association, the T.A. Centre and Tynemouth Scouts, to name a few, also provided funds and assistance.

The Remembrance Service in Tynemouth is extremely well attended attracting upwards of 500 local residents making it one of the largest such events yet to be recognised officially and is a credit to all those who help to organise it. Councillor Bartoli asked for this event to be recognised as an official Council event in 2019, to remove the financial burden from the residents, to grant it the acknowledgement it deserves, and to use the Council's profile to raise awareness of the event both in Tynemouth itself and elsewhere in the borough. This request was refused citing police withdrawal of support for road closures and insufficient resources and finance. With many millions in reserves, the relatively small costs associated with the event could easily be funded whilst those who voluntarily provide their services are ready to continue with their support.

Council therefore asks the Mayor and Cabinet to reconsider this decision and to make the Tynemouth Remembrance Parade and Service part of the Civic Calendar permanently.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There would be direct financial implications in respect of the motion, not only for the authority but potentially for Partners.

2. Motion signed by Councillors G Westwater S Brockbank and L Bartoli

'This Council notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the country, and on residents here in North Tyneside.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 140,000 people in the UK have died of COVID-19.

This Council recognises that several authorities across the country are using blossom trees as a memorial to those who have lost their lives due to COVID and to remember the NHS staff, carers and key workers who have done so much for their communities during the pandemic.

Council therefore requests that the Mayor and Cabinet create a cross-party working group to find a way for a blossom tree memorial, or other suitable memorial, to be created at an appropriate location in North Tyneside.

This will help the community remember all those who have lost their lives to COVID, give thanks to those who have cared for the vulnerable during the pandemic, and work in conjunction with the Council' Tree Planting Strategy.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There would be a financial implication arising from this motion being the cost and subsequent maintenance of the memorials.

3. Motion signed by Councillors P McIntyre, G Westwater and J Wallace

St Mary's Coastline

Our lovely coastline is the jewel in North Tyneside's Crown, well used by many residents and attracting thousands of visitors.

Council welcomes work to be done on the Northern Promenade under phase two of the regeneration, and notes the efforts made to match this with the earlier work south of the Rendezvous Cafe such as matching shelters, seating, handrails, and bins.

However, Council is very disappointed that the promenade surface will not be continued for its entirety. Retaining the old worn paving slabs will leave this large section of the Northern Promenade looking neglected and second rate.

Residents and visitors have voiced their disappointment that the regeneration of the Northern promenade is not going to be the same standard throughout the length of the promenade from Watts Slope heading North. To have the entire Northern promenade with the same surface will be of benefit to all of the coastal wards enhancing its visual appearance.

Council therefore requests that the Mayor and Cabinet reconsider the surface of the promenade, and seek the use of matching materials for the length of promenade north of the Rendezvous Café

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are direct financial implications arising from this motion.

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

£2.5 Million underspend reallocation motion

Council notes that at the Finance Sub Committee meeting on 14th September at 6pm the Provisional Finance Outturn Report shows an underspend of £2.500 million for the last financial year. The current proposal is for this money to be put into reserves.

Council asks that the Mayor instead allocates this money to set up an emergency pavement and pothole repair fund, more than match funding Central Government's contribution, therefore ensuring North Tyneside get back on top of our crumbling roads and pavements.

Legal Implications

Members will have an opportunity to engage in the Authority's budget setting process which is to commence this month in line with the budget setting timescales.

Financial Implications

The outturn report for 2020-21 was presented to Cabinet on 15 July 2021. The report set out the variations in the outturn position and a £2.5m surplus. The surplus arose through a range of actions taken by services to bring their budgets in on balance, and surplus on Interest and Minimum Revenue Provision as a result of both low interest rates, and some delays on the delivery of the Investment Plan.

As part of the financial management process, the S151 Officer continually assess' s financial risks the authority's faces in the short, medium and long term. With that in mind Cabinet agreed to set aside the surplus for the following:

- £1.000m to the Change Reserve as we move into the final third of the current Strategic Partnership contracts and prepare for exit;
- £0.500m to the Insurance Reserve in recognition of the potential investment required to manage health and safety risks of the council's estate; and,
- £1.000m to an Education Change Reserve recognising the risk to the authority in respect of Schools in deficit and the support needed to manage the Education offer in the borough.

Actions are already in progress in respect of these reserves, reallocation at this stage would require Cabinet to consider further action needed to realign other resources to fund the actions and manage the risks identified.

5. Motion signed by Councillors M Thirlaway, K Clark and C Johnson

In-Work Poverty

North Tyneside Council believes that the record number of people living in in-work poverty is a national scandal and that rising levels of employment have failed to translate into higher living standards for too many hard-working people.

We believe, that while paid employment is the best route out of poverty, low pay and the rising cost of living are seriously hindering social aspiration and upward mobility.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to write to the Prime Minister asking for funding for local authorities to tackle in-work poverty.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this motion

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

Free Prescriptions

Council notes with alarm Government proposals to scrap free prescriptions for the over sixties in England, aligning free prescriptions in future with state retirement age.

On top of the many other increases in the cost of living, this represents a further attack on the living standards of those least able to afford it.

Council asks the Elected Mayor to write to the secretary of state for health and social care to protest in the strongest possible terms.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this motion