

# **North Tyneside Council Report to Council 20 January 2022**

## **Title: Questions by Members of the Public**

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting.

### **1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mrs S Armstrong of Shiremoor**

Please can you tell me what NTC are doing to combat litter and rubbish which is becoming a huge issue in my area. I walk my dog every day at the Cobalt Nature Reserve, which your offices directly overlook, and I am horrified at the amount of litter in this beautiful place.

The Algernon industrial estate, also less than a mile away from your offices, is an utter disgrace with rubbish and litter everywhere. I'm sure this is not a unique problem and this must be issue across the whole borough.

Could the council consider litter wardens who issue on the spot fines for people dropping litter?

This used to happen in the 80's and we didn't have the litter issue that we have now.

### **2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Prospert of Whitley Bay**

"The Council appear committed to the provision of a coastal active travel route - and this is very welcome - but will the Council commit to extend this provision to the rest of the Borough and have a comprehensive active travel network by issuing and consulting on its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)?

Other local authorities in the North East of England have either already consulted and issued their LCWIP (e.g. Newcastle, South Tyneside, Durham) or are currently consulting on it (e.g. Sunderland) and it is unclear when North Tyneside Council will undertake the same exercise and ensure meaningful community input. Without a LCWIP and associated work programme, any proposed cycling and walking improvements will remain "ad hoc" and disjointed."

### **3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Ms Stenning of North Shields**

The council's Winter Maintenance Policy states that "the safe movement" of cyclists and pedestrians must be ensured as part of the winter maintenance policy, but we see little evidence of this commitment on the borough's designated cycle paths. Moreover, following Storm Arwen and the considerable impacts across the borough, obstructions and debris remain on many of the borough's cycle, pedestrian, and shared paths many weeks later, posing a particular danger to those cycling and to their cycles.

Research shows that failing to clear cycle paths not only deters cyclists on days when there is ice/snow/other debris but also more generally as travel choices need to be safe, reliable and consistent day in day out (see

<https://twitter.com/NTyneLivingSt/status/1467424856014794753?s=20>)

In this light, we ask the mayor and her cabinet:

- What resources are committed to clearing and ensuring the safety of cycle paths in the borough, in the context of both snow/ice and other weather events, and how are the council's cycle paths currently prioritised for clearing?
- How is winter maintenance integrated into the council's current schemes for extending and upgrading its cycle network (on the seafront, in town centres, metro links etc.) to meet the council's expressed desire to enable more residents to walk and cycle safely in the borough, not least to achieve the council's Net Zero commitments?

### **4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Mr Appleby of Cullercoats**

As we are all aware, we're in the midst of a serious and deteriorating climate and nature emergency. Having adopted soft targets in 2019, the council has now accepted the need to take stronger action.

However, due to the delay, we don't have yet an adequate climate emergency action plan and as such the budget commitments to this issue are out of date and wholly inadequate.

Given this, can the council confirm when the revised Climate Emergency Action Plan will be ready and given the urgency of action, will the council recognise the need to pre-allocate funds in the budget to enable rapid action this year, as planning proceeds.