

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

17 March 2022

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 The Elected Mayor, Councillor S Brockbank and W Samuel.

North Tyneside Council is rightly proud of its apprenticeship programme which has, over many years, been extremely successful, and has produced many excellent employees. However, perhaps the Council's most accomplished apprentice began his employment in 1980 as an apprentice joiner.

In the following 42 years, Phil Scott has deservedly risen to the role of Director of Environment, Housing and Leisure, and has provided outstanding service to both the Council and the residents of the Borough. The scope of his portfolio, together with the previous roles he has held, means that there is no part of the Borough that Phil has not influenced or helped to shape. Whether through his careful stewardship of the Council's physical environment, his care for our tenants and the housing stock portfolio, his work on the Council's highways network, or through the leisure service which he leads and in which he served, Phil's impact on the Council's work over the past four decades is immeasurable.

In his service, Phil has worked with scores of Members from all sides of the Chamber. He has done so with the utmost professionalism, dedication, and humour. He is rightly respected by Members and colleagues alike, both locally and regionally.

Next month, Phil retires from the Council, and it is only right that the Council recognises his extraordinary service through this unprecedented cross-party Motion of Commendation.

North Tyneside Council is therefore proud to formally Commend Phil Scott for his dedication to the Borough and for his outstanding service.

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

2. Motion signed by Councillors W Samuel, C Johnson and S Phillips

North Tyneside Council notes

- Over 4 billion pounds may have been lost due to fraud during the pandemic.
- Chancellor Rishi Sunak appears to have so little appetite to pursue the fraudsters.
- That fake claims to furlough payments were made for staff that continued working and the pressures that organisations who perpetuated this fraud placed upon their employees, customers and others associated with them.

North Tyneside council believes

- That organisations in North Tyneside and beyond who were complicit in this fraud should be exposed.

North Tyneside council calls upon the elected Mayor to:

- Write to Chancellor Sunak both to express our dismay at his inactivity to date and to demand more robust actions against fraudsters.

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

3. Motion signed by Councillors M Rankin, C Johnson and C Burdis

North Tyneside council notes:

- The core spending power per dwelling in NTC is £1,984
- The national average core spending power for all local authorities is £2,155 per dwelling
- North Tyneside would receive £17.142m of funding if it had even the average core spending power of all local authorities.
- The vast majority of recent increases to core spending power have come as a direct result of the Conservative Government telling the Authority to increase council tax.

North Tyneside council believes:

- The lower-than-average core spending power, Government forced council tax rises and £127 million worth of cuts from the Conservative government is a triple hammer blow to the authorities' finances.

North Tyneside council calls upon the elected Mayor to:

- Write to Chancellor Rishi Sunak asking him to increase North Tyneside's per dwelling spending power to match the average in all local authorities.

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

4. Motion signed by Councillors M Thirlaway, C Johnson and S Graham

North Tyneside Council notes:

- In 2020/21, transport spending in London was £877 per person, compared with just £314 per person in the North East.
- The Conservative Government have refused to extend bus recovery funding which will lead to many bus routes around being slashed.
- Labour in North Tyneside recently voted through a budget which increased funding to Nexus allowing them to save local bus routes while the Conservatives voted against.

North Tyneside Council believes:

- That such a huge regional disparity in public spending on transport is unfair and only serves to further entrench regional inequalities.
- The Conservative Government has continued to ignore the North East on Transport, nothing for the North East of significant investment in the Integrated rail plan and now refusing to extend recovery buses funding, slashing bus routes right around the borough.

North Tyneside Council calls on the Elected Mayor to:

- Write to the Prime Minister, demanding a dramatic increase in public transport spending in the North East.

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

5. Motion signed by Councillors by A Newman, C Burdis and S Day

North Tyneside Council believes:

We are a community where everyone can thrive, whoever they are.

We are proud that North Tyneside is a welcoming community, in which people treat each other with care and solidarity.

We know that unaccompanied child refugees have been welcomed in North Tyneside and that the Authority is committed to providing shelter and safety to those who need it.

We are concerned that the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill will make it harder for people seeking sanctuary to get the protection they need.

We also note that the government voted down the Jarvis / Mercer amendment to remove visa fees (currently just under £2500 per person) for commonwealth veterans and their families. Whilst the government has now removed these fees for veterans who serve 6 years or more the government has refused to remove them for family members.

North Tyneside Council calls upon the Elected Mayor to write to the Prime Minister to:

- a) Remove Clause 11 of the Bill which states that refugees should be treated differently according to how they arrive.
- b) Review the Nationality and Borders bill to ensure everyone has safe and dignified accommodation, enough food and essentials to live, and the right to work and to contribute to their community.
- c) Remove the visa fees for the immediate family members of commonwealth veterans once their spouse / parent reaches 6 years of service

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