

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

22 September 2022

Title: Motions

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

Motion 1 signed by Councillor Lewis Bartoli, Christopher Johnston and Linda Arkley

Installation and staffing of barriers at Tynemouth and Cullercoats Metro stations

Over the last few years the residents of Tynemouth and Cullercoats have had to suffer increasing levels of antisocial behaviour as visitor numbers to our coast have increased. This has ranged from vandalism and criminal damage to knife attacks and assaults and our residents have been left to pick up the mess. Our swimmers and dog walkers are met each morning with bottles, cans and used barbecues strewn across our beaches. Much of this antisocial behaviour comes via our Metro system and what is perceived by many as free travel to and from the coast. Those that wish to come and cause trouble do not even need to pay the price of a ticket. The Council believes that installing ticket barriers that are manned at strategic times would assist in deterring and monitoring those who wish to come and cause antisocial behaviour. The Council therefore ask The Mayor to write to Nexus requesting that:

1. They install ticket barriers on Tynemouth and Cullercoats Metro Station before Summer 2023 to assist in reducing ASB at the coast.
2. These barriers are manned by Nexus staff at strategic times to be agreed between the Police, Nexus and the Council when levels of antisocial behaviour are high.

Legal Implications

Nexus is the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive which implements transport policy and plans on behalf of the North East Combined Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The oversight of Nexus is through the North East Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee of the North East Joint Transport Committee.

Nexus takes operational decisions in relation to the provision of transport across the Tyne and Wear area including the metro system.

The installation of barriers at Tynemouth and Cullercoats metro stations and the attendance of staff on occasion at any such barriers would be an operational decision for Nexus to take having regard to all relevant matters including any request made to it by the Authority. However, depending on any financial or other implications that the installation of barriers may have, any such decision may require the ratification of the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee and/or Joint Transport Committee.

Financial Implications

Whilst there are no immediate direct financial implications in supporting this motion there may be an impact in future if this was supported in relation to the Transport Levy.

The capital investment requirement and ongoing revenue costs, whilst would be the responsibility of Nexus, would add to their operating costs which would have an impact on the levy charged to NTC.

Motion 2 signed by Councillor Olly Scargill, Liam Bones and Chris Johnston

Engagement with the Police and Crime commissioner

Anti-social behaviour has been a huge problem for residents across North Tyneside. It consistently appears in their top three priorities, but while some progress has been made with projects across the borough there is still a lot yet to be tackled.

As elected members we all need to work together to tackle the issue of crime and anti-social behaviour in North Tyneside. This includes the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In order to tackle Anti-social behaviour in this area North Tyneside Council asks the Mayor:

- Ask the PCC to fully review and evaluate Police numbers in North Tyneside in light of the serious increase in anti-social behaviour
- To request that the PCC meets with both groups on this Council every six months to allow members to raise specific concerns
- Invite the PCC to give an update on progress on her policing priorities annually to Full Council, and take questions from members on the update

Legal Implications

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires each police area to establish a Police and Crime Panel. The Panel supports and scrutinises the work of the PCC and can require the PCC to attend before it to answer questions. The Panel amongst other things reviews the draft Police and Crime Plan, publicly scrutinises the PCC's annual report, (which includes the progress which has been made in meeting the PCC's objectives) and reviews and scrutinises the decisions and actions of the PCC.

The Panel consists of 2 elected members from each of the local authority areas making up the Northumbria PCC area together with 2 independent co-opted members.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which created the office of PCC understood the need for the work of the PCC to be scrutinised by locally elected members and thus requires the establishment of Police and Crime Panels for each PCC area.

Some of what is proposed in the motion may "cut across" the work of the Police and Crime Panel properly established to deal with the issues referred to in the motion.

Insofar as the request in the motion for the PCC to fully review and evaluate police numbers in North Tyneside is concerned, it is understood that is an operational matter. Decisions on operational matters which includes the configuration and organisation of policing resources, and the deployment of police officers and staff, is a matter for the Chief Constable and not the PCC.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

Motion 3 signed by Councillor Willie Samuel, Michelle Fox and Andrew Newman

Council notes that proposed increase in the Ofgem energy cap will cause untold hardship to residents in North Tyneside and will result in residents being plunged into fuel poverty as well as impacting household budgets. Many of our residents, adults and children face a choice between heating and eating this winter in the face of eye watering increases in fuel prices and inflation.

The action of the Conservative Government is not sufficient setting a cap at £2500 will mean many families continue to struggle and businesses and charities will close because of this. The Conservative plan will rather than taxing unexpected excess profits of energy companies will disgracefully borrow to bail on the record profit making energy companies.

We commend North Tyneside Council for the action it is taking to try and mitigate these issues.

We firmly believe that the cap should be frozen at £1,971 per year and that this can be paid for by a combination of windfall taxes on energy companies and other measures. This will have the added benefit of reducing projected inflation rates. Council asks the elected mayor to write to the Chancellor of The Exchequer to ask that the price cap is frozen at £1,971 per year and this is paid for by a windfall tax on unexpected excess profits of the energy companies.

Council also asks that the Mayor publicises as widely as possible all of the available information and help the Council has on offer to help with the Conservative cost of living crisis.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Finance Implications

There are no direct legal or financial implications from the motion for the following reasons:

- the funding of any energy cap would be addressed nationally.
- the motion does not propose any additional financial support from NTC funds, instead relates to the Authority publicising the support already in place.
- publicising could be done within existing resources.

Any amendment to increase the Authority's budget in this area would require consideration to determine how this would be funded.

Motion 4 signed by Councillor Andy Newman, Willie Samuel and Sandra Graham

End the practice of discharging sewage into waterways

Water companies continue to make huge of profits whilst continuing to dump raw sewage into our waterways. In 2020 water companies made £2.8 billion of collective profits whilst at the same time discharging raw sewage 400,000 times.

It's clear that the water companies will not stop this practice and invest in the urgently needed upgrades to the water system until forced to do so. We therefore believe it's time to completely ban sewage discharges in the UK.

Therefor we ask the mayor to write to the new Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs outlining this councils support for a total ban on sewage discharge by water companies.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

Motion 5 signed by Councillor Carl Johnson, Julie Cruddas and Matthew Thirlaway

The south-east of England, the most affluent region in Britain outside London, last year received almost twice as much money as the north-east from the government's levelling up fund aimed at boosting deprived areas.

Various Conservative levelling up funds have refused to back North Tyneside including the levelling up fund and towns fund, which instead of being available to North Tyneside was made available to often more affluent and often Conservative voting areas.

Child poverty continues to rise in the North East and 11 in 30 children in a school class are now facing child poverty.

We call on the Mayor to:

- Write to the Prime Minister urging action on child poverty in the North East and to set out an action plan on how the Conservative government will tackle child poverty.
- Urge the Prime Minister to fund both of our £20 million levelling up bids for North Shields and Wallsend.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

The decision on the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) fund bid is paramount to delivering the Wallsend masterplan and building on the North Shields masterplan and focus on the Fish Quay. Without this funding the Authority would have to identify and include significant growth to its current Capital Investment Strategy and Investment Plan.

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion, however it may be beneficial in terms of the Governments support for the Authority's LUF bids that have been submitted. Which would secure the funding to support delivery of the Authority's ambitious investment plans for the Borough.