

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

18 January 2018

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday 18 January 2018 at 6.00 pm in The Chamber at Quadrant at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

Present

Councillor C Davis (In the Chair)

Councillor J Allan	Councillor C Johnson
Councillor A Arkle	Councillor K Lee
Councillor A Austin	Councillor F Lott
Councillor G Bell	Councillor W Lott
Councillor L Bell	Councillor G Madden
Councillor K Bolger	Councillor M Madden
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor P Mason
Councillor J Cassidy	Councillor P McIntyre
Councillor D Cox	Councillor D McMeekan
Councillor S L Cox	Councillor A McMullen
Councillor N Craven	Councillor L Miller
Councillor EN Darke	Councillor T Mulvenna
Councillor L Darke	Councillor A Newman
Councillor S Day	Councillor P Oliver
Councillor D Drummond	Councillor K Osborne
Councillor P Earley	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor R Glindon	Councillor A Percy
Councillor S Graham	Councillor C B Pickard
Councillor I Grayson	Councillor M Reynolds
Councillor M A Green	Councillor L Spillard
Councillor M Hall	Councillor J Stirling
Councillor E F J Hodson	Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor A Waggott-Fairley
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor J Walker
Councillor M Huscroft	Councillor J A Wallace
Councillor N J Huscroft	

C58/01/18 Public Questions

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Dr Ridley of Cullercoats

I have semi-retired to Cullercoats having worked and lived in London for 30 years.

One of the problems I find living in North Tyneside is the public transport particularly at night. London has a weekend night tube and a night bus service as good as its day service.

My question is, are there plans to introduce a night bus service across North Tyneside with a weekend night metro-service. This would help build the night economy, improve people's lives and reduce drink driving.

Councillor Pickard responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

Thank you, I will be responding on behalf of Councillor Harrison who is unable to attend.

Can I first of all say how delighted I am that he has chosen North Tyneside or indeed Cullercoats as an area to live in or semi-retire to.

In answer to his question, I think it's important to recognise that London is our Capital City with a population that is around eight times greater than the whole of Tyne and Wear. It also has a completely different night time economy to ours.

Also, in terms of bus services, it has a different legal framework from the rest of England. So there are some quite significant differences.

In relation to our bus services, there are a number of bus operators that provide transport links around the region on a purely commercial basis and Nexus ensures that there is a network of secured bus services provided for links which are not met by the commercial operators.

Councillor Harrison has spoken to Nexus in relation to this question and can advise Dr Ridley that Nexus do not have any current plans to introduce night-time Metro services, or any additional late night bus services, as the higher costs of operation against the likely patronage does not result in a financially viable service.

Of course any bus operator is free to introduce a new night-time service if it so chooses, but I am not aware of any plans to do so at this time.

C59/01/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from N Redfearn (Elected Mayor), Councillors P Brooks, C Burdis, K A Clark, J Harrison, M Rankin and F Weetman.

C60/01/18 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made in relation to Item 5 – Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

Councillor A Arkle - non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor B Burdis – non-registerable personal interest – brother-in-law is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor G Bell - non-registerable personal interest – daughter is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor L Bell - non-registerable personal interest – daughter is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor R Glindon – non-registerable personal interest – daughter in law is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor T Mulvenna – non-registerable personal interest – family members are employed by Kier North Tyneside.

Councillor L Spillard – non-registerable personal interest – a relative is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor G Madden – non-registerable personal interest – family member is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor M Madden – non-registerable personal interest – nephew is employed by North Tyneside Council.

Councillor M Reynolds - non-registerable personal interest – works with people who are affected by the Council tax support scheme and has family members who work in areas affected by the scheme.

C61/01/18 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2017 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

C62/01/18 Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

Council received a report which detailed the options that had been considered by Cabinet for having a Local Council Tax Support Scheme in place for North Tyneside for the financial year 2018/19, and the proposed option for adoption as recommended by Cabinet.

The report also set out the results of a consultation exercise that had been undertaken on three possible options for the scheme in 2018/19.

It was moved by Councillor R Glindon and seconded by Councillor A McMullen that:

Council:

- (1) note the recommended Scheme, set out as option 1, in paragraph 1.6.1 which is being proposed to Council by Cabinet following its meeting on 11 December 2017; and
- (2) agree this Scheme as the Council Tax Support Scheme for North Tyneside with effect from 1 April 2018.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 50 votes to 0 votes.

C63/01/18 North of Tyne Devolution

The Council received a report that provided information on the “minded to” Devolution Deal that had been agreed by North Tyneside Council, Newcastle City Council and Northumberland County Council with central Government that would transfer new powers and funding to a North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority.

The proposal to establish a North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority was currently subject to a public consultation exercise that had commenced on 14 December 2017 and would conclude on 5 February 2018. Cabinet proposed to seek the views of Council prior to formal commitment to the creation of the North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority.

A number of questions for clarification were asked and responded to appropriately.

It was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor I Grayson that:

Council:

- (1) Note the contents of the “minded-to” Devolution Deal at Appendix 1;
- (2) Note the contents and findings of the Governance Review and Scheme as appended to the Cabinet report at Appendix 2 submitted to the Secretary of State by North Tyneside Council, Newcastle City Council and Northumberland County Council; and
- (3) Note the proposed establishment of a North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority and that Council will be consulted on any draft Order establishing the North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority prior to formal consent by Cabinet to the making of such an Order.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously agreed.

C64/01/18 Programme of Meetings 2018/19

The Council received a report which presented the proposed programme of meetings for the 2018/19 municipal year. A revised version of the programme of meetings was circulated at the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor E Darke that:

Council:

- (1) Agree the programme of meetings for 2018/19, as circulated at the meeting; and
- (2) Agree that the meetings of the full Council proposed for 26 July 2018, 22 November 2018 and 17 January 2019 be those at which questions will be taken from members of the public.

The Motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 50 votes to 0 votes.

C65/01/18 Common Seal

Resolved that the Common Seal be affixed to all deeds and documents required for carrying into effect the various decisions of the Council made since its last meeting.

C66/01/18 Chair's Announcements

The Chair made announcements with regards to the following:

1. The Whitley Bay Town Cup Sub-committee met in December and awarded the cup for 2017 to Shikara restaurant, Whitley Bay. This was in recognition of the national awards won by the restaurant and chef, how the success of the business had helped raise the profile of Whitley Bay and the restaurant's involvement within the community. The restaurant owners would be invited to meet with the Chair in the near future to be presented with the cup.
2. The Chair congratulated the Elected Mayor for being honoured and awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours list for public and community service.
3. The Chair informed Members that a Charity Dinner had been arranged to take place in February and invited Members to attend to raise money to support her three charities – Maggie's Cancer Centre in Newcastle, the North Shields Living at Home Scheme and the YMCA North Shields.

C67/01/18 Questions by Members of the Council

1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing by Councillor K Clark

Can the cabinet member update the council on the situation following the council motion on the 23rd November 2017 calling for the clinical commissioning group to go ahead with the planned opening of the 24/7 urgent care centre at Rake Lane hospital?

Councillor Hall responded as follows:

I understand that the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) met on the 5 December to consider the outcome of their engagement exercise concerning urgent care. I've established the following details about what is proposed for the urgent care centre. It was proposed at the beginning that the urgent care centre was only to be open from 8am till 10pm until 30 September 2018.

That was changed and the urgent care centre at present is now open from 8am till midnight until 30 September 2018.

New arrangements will start on 1 October 2018 and the urgent care centre will continue to be open from 8am to midnight. The new specifications include a booked appointment system which will be available at the urgent care centre from midnight until 8am.

Specifications for the new service have been issued together with an invitation to tender. The closing date for submitting the bid acceptance is the 5 February 2018. The decision on the successful bid is to be made in March 2018 to start 1 October 2018. There has been interest shown in providing the service but the CCG is not in a position to say who is definitely submitting a bid.

It is important that the urgent care centre arrangements get full publicity and are communicated to all the residents of North Tyneside and I can assure Members that the Elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet members and our MPs have made it very clear to the NHS leaders that we, along with our residents, remain unhappy about the situation and will continue to voice our concerns. In addition to writing to central Government and Health officials the Elected Mayor is hosting a follow up meeting with the senior leadership team of the CCG on the 26 January where she will continue to make these points on behalf of our residents.

2. Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment by Councillor K Bolger

Independent groups such as Surfers Against Sewage and businesses such as Riley's Fish Shack and Longsands Fish Kitchen in Tynemouth are setting an example by organising clean up days or ceasing to use harmful plastics. Examples include replace drinking cups with lids, straws, plastic cutlery, condiment sachets and containers for alternative bio-degradable alternatives and to offer tap water to customers in re-usable cups. Can the Cabinet member investigate how we as a Council can support these initiatives and minimise the use of single use plastic items?

Councillor Stirling responded as follows:

Thank you for your question.

I agree that it is important that we all protect North Tyneside's beautiful and vibrant coast line for future generations to enjoy. Our three Blue Flags and four Quality Coast Awards are testament to the work that we do to ensure that we keep our coastline clean for all to enjoy.

I am delighted that Surfers Against Sewage and businesses such as Riley's Fish Shack and Longsands Fish Kitchen in Tynemouth are on board with this and helping us by organising clean up days or ceasing to use harmful plastics. I know that they have been instrumental in getting local people and businesses behind a local campaign to qualify Tynemouth as a plastic free coastline.

Frankly, it is a relief to see a real shift in attitudes to plastic. I am also pleased that Central Government have also, at long last, announced plans to eradicate all avoidable plastic waste. It is just a shame that this will take until 2042 to get there. As I am sure you will be aware there is talk of introducing a 5p tax on single use plastic bottles. I can assure Members that I will be watching very closely how these policies develop and ensure that North Tyneside is at the forefront of any local government action that is required.

I believe that we can do more to encourage North Tyneside residents to think about the environmental impact that these plastic products have - particularly if they are not disposed of properly.

In fact this was a hot topic of discussion at the State of the Area event in October last year where our young people, in particular, were committed to making a difference. Following that, we are also working actively with the Young Mayor and his Cabinet to deliver a campaign to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles and to promote the use of reusable drinks containers.

Recycling is vitally important, not just for plastic but other types of recyclables. That is why we take measures which are not always popular to increase the levels of recycling and

keep our environment clean for future generations to enjoy. We need all residents to embrace these changes and help us with our plans towards this.

We will continue to support our residents, businesses and visitors to act responsibly and recycle their single use plastic products. Our Wash, Squash and Recycle campaign is a great example of this. I have, as Cabinet Member for Environment asked for a full report on what the Council can do to limit the use of single use plastic in the Council. In addition to this I have discussed these issues with the Chair of Environment Sub-Committee and suggested that we invite the campaign leads for the Surfers Against Sewage plastic free coastline to a meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee to discuss how we work with them.

And of course, I will continue to investigate how North Tyneside Council can support initiatives to minimise the impact of single use plastic products as you have requested as we all try to make sure our coast is enjoyed by generations to come.

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

I have asked the Mayor previously about her views concerning the Planning Permission given to a massive Energy From Waste plant, proposed to be built in Howdon, to serve the Combined Authority.

Has she had an opportunity, yet, to discuss this proposal with other members of the Combined Authority Leadership? And are they also satisfied with the project and its possible consequences?

Councillor Pickard responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

You have indeed asked the Elected Mayor previously for her views concerning the Planning Permission granted for an Energy from Waste plant at the Port of Tyne and she answered your question at our July meeting.

To reiterate what the Mayor said at that time the Mayor made it very clear she had not supported this officer recommendation and at no point in time had any of her correspondence given an indication of her support of otherwise to this plant.

I understand that her position has not changed since then. She has not indicated support for the facility as that is beyond her remit. She also explained that she has personal reservations about the facility but planning permission has been granted following the proper democratic process.

As we are aware the facility is not yet licensed or built; as far as we are aware it has no commercial arrangements in place to process waste let alone any arrangement with the Combined Authority. It has not, therefore, been subject to discussion with the Combined Authority Leadership at this stage.

A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Hodson as follows:

The proposed energy from waste plant has yet to obtain approval from the Environment Agency and this may not be given; however the growing understanding of the importance of air quality and its effect on health calls into question why such a massive plant with its copious poisonous emissions should ever be considered acceptable for the residents of the Combined Authority including us in North Tyneside. In addition burdens on residents of

Riverside and Howdon are frankly shameful. Why does the Mayor choose to ignore this assault on the health and wellbeing of our Combined Authority residents?

Councillor Pickard responded as follows:

In general there is no disagreement between the Mayor, me and yourself. We all oppose this facility going down there but we need to make the right interjections at the right time and as far I'm aware because I've checked up even as recently today that there has been no application yet for an Environment Agency licence.

If and when there is one, we will be taking our position in our response from the Council which will include discussing issues with people like South Tyneside, Gateshead and Newcastle but at the moment there is no proposal to do it. However, the big thing that will stop this will be it cannot go ahead unless the government, your government, provides it with a grant to make it economically viable.

So I would suggest that you could help the Mayor and myself with the campaign to get it stopped if you would kindly have a word with your own government suggesting the people of North Tyneside don't want this incinerator so please don't give them any money because without that money from your government it will not go ahead.