



Reference: FOI3912

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information concerning your councillors:

1. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors? If yes, please provide a copy.

Yes. Please see Appendix 3 of the Members' Allowance Scheme which forms part of the Authority's Constitution - Dependant Carers Allowance and Appendix 4 of the Scheme - Paternal Leave Policy for Members.

The Scheme is available at this

link: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/October%202020.pdf>

2. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors?

See 1 above.

3. Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance? If yes, please provide a copy.

Yes. This is included in Appendix 4 of the Scheme referred to above. 4. If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance?

See 3 above.

5. Does the council have a formal standards committee?
6. Does the council have a formal role to oversee member conduct and promote equality (e.g. chair of the standards committee, chief whip, etc.)?

5 and 6 Yes. Please see the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee at Part 3.5 of the Authority's Constitution (pages 112-113) and Part 8.2 of the Authority's Constitution which is the Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Co-opted Members.

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The Monitoring Officer of the Authority amongst other things is responsible for supporting the Standards Committee and will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Standards Committee.

7. Does the council's Code of Conduct under Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011 make any reference to promoting equality or tackling sexism?

Yes. Please see the Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Co-opted Members. Part 1 of the Code of Conduct at paragraph 11 states -

"You must not do anything that would cause you to breach any equality laws. For example, you must not make sexist and/or racist comments".

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Page 2 of 2