

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

### Date: 9 March 2011

## ITEM 3

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 Councillors G Brett, D Ord and C Croft

In the current financial climate there are problems facing Councils up and down the land. There is the need to make significant cost savings and efficiencies in workforce and the services we deliver and so this motion asks for a commitment from the Council to look at:

1. No vacancy can be advertised without approval of full Council where remuneration is above £21519 until the end of the financial year.
2. Liaising with all our neighbouring authorities to look at sharing senior posts within the authorities e.g. Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Heads of Service etc.
3. Liaising with all of our neighbouring authorities to look at sharing service provision between the authorities, both customer-facing and back-office functions.

Our Workforce Strategy & People Plan 2010 - 2013 refers to : "There are a number of challenges facing the workforce including the economic and political environment, the need to do more for less and the reduced funding in the future for Local Government. This would have implications for the Council's Human Resources function including the need to identify workforce efficiencies and savings."

This motion calls upon the Council to incorporate the contents of the motion into the Workforce Strategy and People Plan 2010 - 2013 as well as forming post sharing with other neighbouring authorities

All of the above proposals outlined in this motion have been adopted by authorities up and down the country and millions of pounds worth of savings have been identified, whilst maintaining services to their residents.

This Council has a moral obligation to look at all possible savings and efficiencies in every facet of its operations while maintaining the very highest quality of services to our residents.

All Members should have a report on progress made on the contents of this motion within 12 weeks of this Council meeting.

## **2. Motion signed by Councillors E N Darke, D E Corkey and J M Allan**

This Council agrees to hold a poll of electors, in line with Section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003, to ascertain if they agree with North Tyneside's Council Cabinet Preferred Options contained in their Core Strategy published in June 2010.

### **Legal Implications**

Under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 local authorities have the power to hold a local poll relating to services provided pursuant to the authority's functions, the finance it commits to those services, or any other matter relating to the authority's powers of wellbeing under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. A poll pursuant to this motion could lawfully be conducted as it concerns a matter which relates to the authority's power to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of its area. Such a poll would take the form of electors indicating by a yes or no vote as to whether they do, or do not, agree with the Core Strategy Preferred Options. As the Options form an indication for consultation of an overall Strategy for the Borough, such a poll would need to be undertaken on the Preferred Options as a whole, rather than on individual elements within the Preferred Options.

The Core Strategy Preferred Options have already been subject to public consultation within the context of the process required to be followed for the production of Development Plans, and the extensive representations received from members of the public are in the process of consideration. Further due process in the preparation of the Core Strategy includes consideration and approval of the final proposals for the Strategy by Council, followed by formal publication and a period of statutory consultation, and thereafter an independent public inquiry undertaken by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. If there are any proposed changes to the Strategy arising from that inquiry, these will be referred back to the Council for consideration.

If a poll were held as indicated above and the outcome was that the Preferred Options as a whole were not agreed by a majority of voting electors, this would need to be taken into account, together with other public representations including those already received, in the development and formulation of the Core Strategy. Undertaking such a poll would likely lead to considerable delay in progressing the development of the Strategy.

### **Financial implications**

If the poll were held in the manner of a local election, where voters can either vote at a polling station or by post, the approximate cost of undertaking the poll would be in the region of £170,000. An all postal vote poll would not be a viable possibility as the Council only holds personal identifiers for under a third of the electorate (registered postal voters). There is no provision in the Council's budget for this expenditure, and funding for holding the poll would have to come from the Council's Strategic Reserve.

**3. Motion signed by Councillors S Day, P Brooks and A Normand**

This Council actively supports Newcastle and Gateshead Councils in their bid to bring the Tall Ships Race back to the Tyne in 2015 and, in recognition of the potential tourism and other benefits for this borough, instructs officers to discuss with colleagues in Newcastle and Gateshead how a successful outcome can best be achieved.

**4. Motion signed by Councillors S Cox, N Redfearn and I Grayson**

This Council deplores the attack made by the Conservative/Liberal Government on young aspirational people and their families through the removal of the educational maintenance allowance and the massive rise in university tuition fees despite the direct pledges made not to do it.

The Council asks that the Mayor writes to the minister responsible pointing out the damaging affect this will have on the young people of North Tyneside and their families.

Also the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider that the Children and Young People Sub Committee carry out a full investigation into the effects this will have on the residents of North Tyneside not just those in school 6<sup>th</sup> forms but in all training organisations whether Council or private provides.