

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions:-

1. Notice of Motion – Starting to Solve the Sunderland Sewage Problem for Good

This Council remains concerned about the impact of dumping of raw sewage and other faecal matter into the River Wear and the North Sea off Roker, Seaburn and Hendon beaches can have on the health and wellbeing of bathers and on the reputation of Sunderland as a visitor destination.

Council therefore agrees to:

Ask the Cabinet to produce a report outlining what steps the Council could take to better protect the health and safety of anyone taking part in activities in the River Wear and/or the water off beaches in Sunderland; and report back to full Council.

Ask the Cabinet to consider commissioning a full independent investigation and survey of the sewage system and outflows into the North Sea and River Wear in Sunderland; and report back to full Council.

Proposer: Councillor Malcolm Bond

Seconder: Councillor Paul Gibson

2. Notice of Motion – Sunderland City Council’s Summer of Failures

This Council recognises that it has a responsibility to provide high-quality services to residents of Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields and, therefore:

- Its actions affect how residents feel about living in the city.
- It represents the city on the national and international stage and must ensure that its actions promote the city in a positive light.

Therefore, Council regrets the reputational damage done to the city by its actions over the summer as a consequence of:

- Its failure of vulnerable residents and their families by not ensuring that respite services continue to operate at Grace House. This problem is compounded by the Council’s inability to secure suitable alternative provision.
- The total lack of commentary from the Council's leadership to reassure residents concerned about the loss of the city centre cinema and the Wilko store
- Its failure to provide adequate leadership at, or show due concern following, the World Triathlon Championship Series event, where at least 88 athletes fell ill after competing.

Council resolves:

- That the Leader of the Council should write letters to the families devastated by the Grace House closure, apologising for the authority's failures and detailing how he plans to resolve the situation.
- That the Leader will set up a cross-party city centre working group which will engage with businesses and leisure providers to address concerns relating to the loss of retail and leisure opportunities.
- That the Leader should write an open letter to competitors at the triathlon, apologising for the Council's failure to ensure that they had a positive experience while competing in the city and for his lack of compassion in his initial media remarks following their illness.

Proposed by Councillor Sam Johnston

Seconded by Councillor Lyall Reed

Additional Signatories

Councillor Greg Peacock
Councillor Adele Graham-King
Councillor Richard Dunn
Councillor Michael Hartnack
Councillor Michael Dixon
Councillor Antony Mullen
Councillor Simon Ayre

3. Notice of Motion – In Recognition of Our Key Workers

This council notes that:

- On the 23rd March 2020 the then Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced the first national lockdown during a televised address to the nation. It was the day the seriousness of the Covid Pandemic finally registered with the nation.
- The Prime Minister's comments that "we will turn the tide of coronavirus in 12 weeks" proved wildly inaccurate with the number of deaths caused by the virus now approaching 200,000 people, more than 1270 sadly from Sunderland.
- The 3 lockdowns instigated by the Government in their attempts to limit the number of deaths during the pandemic were only possible through the courageous actions, and sadly in some cases sacrifice, of Key Workers in areas such as health and social care, education, food retail sector, key public services, local government and many more.

This council will take a proactive approach to ensure that these Key Workers within our communities are not forgotten, through:

- Promoting within Sunderland the notion of an annual "Key Worker Day" in recognition of the many residents of this City who risked themselves to ensure we could all remain safe during the pandemic.

- Discuss with our trade union colleagues on an appropriate date for the first annual Key Worker Day to be held no later than 31st March 2024 and actively promote this with our partners.
- Consulting via the Budget-setting process, on the introduction of an additional day of annual leave for Council staff from 2024/25 financial year in recognition of the service they have provided to our residents during the pandemic.

Proposer Councillor Sean Laws
 Secunder Councillor Beth Jones

Additional Signatories

Cllr Graeme Miller	Cllr Michael Mordey	Cllr Jimmy Warne
Cllr Claire Rowntree	Cllr Alex Samuels	Cllr Iain Scott
Cllr Kevin Johnston	Cllr Catherine Hunter	Cllr Joanne Chapman
Cllr John Price	Cllr Linda Williams	Cllr Dianne Snowdon
Cllr Alison Smith	Cllr Paul Stewart	Cllr Michael Butler
Cllr Usman Ali	Cllr Fiona Miller	Cllr Alison Chisnall
Cllr John Usher	Cllr Ehtesham Haque	
Cllr Phil Tye	Cllr Peter Walker	
Cllr Juliana Heron	Cllr Kelly Chequer	

