

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

(i) Developing a Community Wealth Programme for Sunderland

With cuts in local service budgets since 2010 of over £290m per annum on our council, imposed nationally by Liberal Democrats and Tories, it is becoming increasingly apparent that, for all the success in attracting inward investment, we need to do more to develop wealth creation and retention within our local communities to mitigate against these cuts.

We therefore propose that Sunderland, as a Co-operative Council, look to develop strategies to retain local community wealth, putting control back into the hands of local communities so that wealth is broadly held and where benefits are recirculated.

In doing so we call upon Sunderland Council to make a long-term commitment to community wealth building by imbedding this approach as part of the current review of the corporate plan, appointing the Cabinet Secretary to oversee its development and implementation.

Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor G. Walker
Councillor D. Waller
Councillor M. Beck
Councillor R. Atkinson
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor A. Wilson
Councillor P. Smith
Councillor P. Gibson
Councillor B. Scaplehorn
Councillor D.O. Dixon

Councillor A. Scullion
Councillor J. Jackson
Councillor E. Ball
Councillor E. Gibson
Councillor C. Marshall
Councillor J. Kelly
Councillor S. Foster
Councillor D. Wilson
Councillor A. Samuels

(ii) Parental Leave Policy for Elected Members

This Council notes:

- That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards

encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors;

- That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

This Council resolves:

- To adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting;
- To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;
- To notify the LGA that this council has passed a motion at full council to adopt the parental leave policy.

Councillor R. Atkinson
Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor D. Waller
Councillor A. Wilson
Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor P. Smith
Councillor P. Gibson
Councillor B. Scaplehorn
Councillor D.O. Dixon

Councillor W. Scullion
Councillor J. Jackson
Councillor E. Ball
Councillor E. Gibson
Councillor C. Marshall
Councillor P. Tye
Councillor J. Kelly
Councillor S. Foster
Councillor A. Samuels

(iii) Recent attacks on Firefighters in the City

This Council, on behalf of the vast majority of law-abiding people in Sunderland, condemns the recent attacks on firefighters in the city and will support a zero-tolerance approach to anyone caught attacking any firefighter who do one of the most dangerous and essential jobs in our society.

Councillor R. Oliver
Councillor R. Francis

(iv) Review of scrutiny arrangements of Children's Services and Together for Children

Council notes that:

Independent reports in 2015 and 2018 have highlighted a need for improvements to be made in the management of scrutiny and oversight of Children's services in Sunderland.

Council further notes that:

Following these reports, significant changes have been made to improve the provision of services to children in Sunderland, and since then the management and oversight of Children's Services and Together for Children has been noted as showing improvement. However, external organisations and council bodies which provide services to children in care remain outside the oversight of current children's service scrutiny arrangements.

Accordingly, Council resolves to:

Request the Chief Executive to undertake a review of the existing scrutiny arrangements of Children's Services and Together for Children with a view to bringing other relevant bodies into the existing scrutiny arrangements. These bodies being those with an interest in the provision of services to children whilst in and leaving care from birth through to 18-21-year-old care leavers;

Request the Chief Executive to bring forward recommendations to Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive of Together for Children and the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, to make changes to the scrutiny arrangements which widen the scope of scrutiny undertaken by the existing Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor M. Haswell
Councillor N.D. Hodson

5. Event or Memorial for Conscientious Objectors

At the last Council meeting on 19th September 2018, Council resolved to commemorate the many women who have made a contribution to the civic life of Sunderland following the 1918 Representation of the People Act.

Council notes with regret that the same 1918 Act excluded 16,000 conscientious objectors from the right to vote, throughout the first world war and for five years after. Council notes with sadness the appalling way in which conscientious objectors were treated during and after the first world war.

In this, the centenary of the outbreak of the war, Council recognizes the courage and contribution made by conscientious objectors from Sunderland. Accordingly, Council resolves to call on the chief executive to look into the feasibility of an event or lasting memorial to the Sunderland's conscientious objectors.

Councillor N.D. Hodson
Councillor M. Haswell