

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

1. Thank you to our Key Workers

This council recognises the outstanding efforts made in recent months to support vulnerable members of our community during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Though the pandemic continues and there remains a need to be vigilant, to following social distancing rules and wearing masks to limit the spread of the virus, we believe it is appropriate now to pay tribute to those key workers who supported us at time of need during this pandemic. Whether it be NHS Staff through to Bus Drivers, Care Staff to Shop Workers, or our Teachers and Teaching Assistants through to those delivering our Post, and of course not forgetting the many hundreds of Local Volunteers and the many Council Staff who stepped up when needed by our community.

This Council expresses its gratitude and thanks to you all that your endeavours during this crisis has reminded us of the kindness that is at the heart of the human spirit.

Councillor G. Miller (Proposer)
Councillor P. Stewart (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor A. Samuels
Councillor J. Heron
Councillor L. Farthing
Councillor C Rowntree
Councillor S. Foster

Councillor K. Wood
Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor D. Trueman
Councillor H. Trueman
Councillor L. Williams

2. Thank you to Council staff, NHS staff, Key Workers and Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

This Council notes:

- That during the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown, Council staff, NHS staff, key workers and members of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups have fulfilled essential roles in our communities. They have ensured that basic services continued to run, that health and care needs have been met, and provided a lifeline to the most vulnerable and isolated in our society.
- The coronavirus crisis has seen Sunderland City Council, the NHS, local businesses and the voluntary and community sector respond to rapidly-changing demands on services, and in many cases make major changes to the way these services are delivered.

- Many staff working at Sunderland City Council, in the NHS, within local businesses and in VCS organisations have been personally affected by the coronavirus crisis.

This council believes:

- Sunderland City Council and local NHS staff, key workers and members of VCS organisations are heroes who have kept our city moving through the ongoing and unprecedented coronavirus crisis.
- Sunderland City Council and local NHS staff, key workers and members of VCS organisations deserve recognition for their commitment and hard work in incredibly challenging circumstances.

This council resolves:

- To ask the Chief Executive to contact all Sunderland City Council staff and thank them on behalf of elected members, and pass on our thanks to the local NHS, local businesses, and VCS organisations.

Councillor N. Hodson (Proposer)

Councillor M. Haswell (Seconder)

Signed by -

Councillor N. Hodson
Councillor M. Haswell
Councillor A. Wood
Councillor H. Fagan

Councillor M. Crosby
Councillor J.K. Potts
Councillor S. O'Brien

3. Protecting the public's say in the planning process

This Council notes:

- The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.
- That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
- That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

- Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
- Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
- Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council Further Notes:

- The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals ‘shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes’. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
- The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.

This Council Believes:

- That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Sunderland, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
- That proposals for automatic rights to build in ‘growth’ areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
- That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

- Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals as outlined in this motion.
- Write to and lobby all three of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.
- Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.

Councillor H. Fagan (Proposer)
Councillor M. Crosby(Seconder)

Signed by -

Councillor H. Fagan
Councillor M. Crosby
Councillor N. Hodson

Councillor A. Wood
Councillor J.K. Potts

4. Council Response to Pest Control

This Council recognises that the local authority's response to pest control – specifically relating to rodents – across the city in recent months has been unsatisfactory and failed to meet members' and residents' expectations.

It therefore resolves to:

- Request that each Area Committee commits £10,000 to be spent on pest control solutions within their area of the city.
- Make it easier for members of the public to report rodent outbreaks by setting up a dedicated webpage and email address.
- Publish a monthly list – sent to all councillors – of planned routine pest control treatments (which includes dates and locations of planned treatment) so that members can identify overlooked problem areas within their wards.

Councillor A. Mullen (Proposer)

Councillor J. Doyle (Seconder)

Signed by -

Councillor A. Mullen
Councillor J. Doyle
Councillor J. McKeith

Councillor P. Wood
Councillor M. Dixon
Councillor R. Oliver