

# ***Motions on Notice***



**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

**1. Love Sunderland – Stronger Communities and Support for Our Voluntary Sector**

This Council believes in *our whole city* - in Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.

We believe in the strength of every neighbourhood, every village, every community, and in the resilience and extraordinary spirit that defines all parts of our city. Everything we do as a Council - every policy, every investment, every decision - is driven by our love for Sunderland in its fullest sense and our commitment to the future of *all* our communities.

Sunderland has never been defined by those who wish to divide us. Our city is defined by the people who bring others together, who look out for their neighbours, and who stand up for fairness, kindness and community from Shiney Row to Southwick, from Washington Village to Hendon.

It is this spirit - the spirit of *Love Sunderland* - that guides this Council and shapes our priorities.

This Council notes:

- The Stronger Communities Framework reflects our core purpose: building a united, confident and compassionate city across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
- The VCSE sector embodies the very best of every part of our area. Rooted in neighbourhoods, powered by volunteers, trusted by residents, and driven by love for the people they serve.
- Insights from the 2024 Resident Survey and experiences during the August 2024 disorder show clearly that community and voluntary organisations are among our greatest assets in strengthening resilience, tackling misinformation and supporting local people everywhere across the city.
- During the disorder, it was residents, volunteers and community groups from *all* corners of Sunderland - Washington, the Coalfields and the city centre - who stepped forward and showed what this city really stands for: decency, dignity, unity and pride.
- The Council's recent budget includes £1.2 million of new investment to strengthen community-led work and support grassroots organisations that make an everyday difference across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
- The countless acts of kindness and solidarity shown by residents and local groups deserve recognition and the full support of this Council.

This Council believes:

- Ours is a city held together by love. Love for our communities, our heritage, our future and each other.
- Divisive rhetoric and attempts to pit residents or neighbourhoods against one another have no place here. Our city succeeds when we lift each other up, not when people attempt to drag our communities down for political gain.

- The Council has a responsibility to champion unity, challenge misinformation, and ensure our policies reflect the values that define our people: fairness, opportunity, pride and community spirit.
- Backing the voluntary and community sector is not just good policy, it is a statement of who we are as a city. It is an investment in the strength, heart and resilience of Sunderland in all its parts.

This Council resolves to:

1. Embed the Stronger Communities Framework across all Council services to ensure every part of our work reflects our commitment to unity, compassion and fairness across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
2. Strengthen partnerships with VCSE organisations, recognising them as key partners in supporting local people and building community pride in every neighbourhood.
3. Ensure the £1.2 million investment delivers real, local impact, empowering neighbourhoods, supporting volunteers and helping community organisations grow and thrive in all parts of the city.
4. Deepen engagement with residents, ensuring local voices, local pride and local expertise shape Council decisions.
5. Stand firmly against those who seek to divide our communities, reject misinformation, and promote the true values of Sunderland in all its communities.
6. Provide an annual report to Full Council on the progress made, celebrating the achievements of communities, volunteers and the VCSE sector across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.

Because in Sunderland, our strength is not just in our streets or our skyline, but in the hearts of people across *all* our communities who choose unity, compassion and hope every single day.

Proposer: Cllr Beth Jones  
 Seconder: Cllr Alison Smith

### **Additional Signatories**

Cllr Mordey	Cllr Tobin	Cllr D Snowdon
Cllr Chequer	Cllr Scanlan	Cllr Samuels
Cllr Leonard	Cllr Williams	Cllr Trueman
Cllr Butler	Cllr Thornton	Cllr Dagg
Cllr Johnston	Cllr Price	Cllr Speding
Cllr D E Snowdon	Cllr Elms	Cllr Laverick
Cllr Chapman	Cllr Glancy	Cllr Clinton

## **2. A resident focused approach**

Council notes that after 53 years in power this Labour administration is out of ideas, out of money, and out of time. Council notes that it is time for a new administration to run this Council with fresh ideas and a resident focused approach

Proposer: Cllr Paul Edgeworth  
 Seconder: Cllr Steven Donkin

## Additional Signatories

Cllr Bond	Cllr Haswell	Cllr Potts
Cllr Crosby	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Walton
Cllr Fagan	Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Wood
Cllr Gibson		

### 3. Say 'No' to HMOs

Council believes that in any modern city, a diverse range of housing options are required to match the needs of the population. The Council also recognises that every community within Sunderland is unique and distinctive and it is important that we preserve the character of these areas. The Council also believes that the City has a shortage of quality family housing and the conversion of family dwellings to HMO properties exacerbates this problem.

Council recognises that there is a need to increase the housing supply, but believes that this must be balanced against the concerns there are about the proliferation of HMOs and about the impact this can have on established communities and neighbourhoods and how they can undermine the character of historical parts of Sunderland. The Council notes that the police often raise concerns through the planning process in relation to HMO conversions because of the impact they can have on community cohesion.

Council also notes the importance of the provision of decent, high quality accommodation and that often HMOs are over intensive for the building they are put in, leaving rooms below adequate size.

Although the creation of new HMOs is limited via an Article 4 Direction in some parts of the city, this is not city wide and even where it is in place has had limited impact in restricting the creation of new HMOs.

Council therefore:

- Calls on the Council Leader to consider the options for further restricting HMO conversions as part of revised local planning policies, including a city-wide Article 4 Direction. Such a Direction should include a requirement for all conversions from C3 to C4 to require planning permission, and that this permission should be considered based on the existing character of the local area, the impact on communities, and the wishes of local residents.
- Calls for covenants to be placed on all future Council new builds or disposals (including Right to Buy) to prevent future conversion of these properties into flats or HMOs.
- Asks the Council Leader to write, jointly with the other Group Leaders, to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to reflect the views of residents in Sunderland that there is a need within the city to ensure that family homes in communities are protected. This letter should call for more powers to be given to Local Authorities to further restrict the number of HMOs within their area without



## Additional Signatories

Cllr Mordey	Cllr Foster	Cllr Thornton
Cllr Laws	Cllr Dagg	Cllr Price
Cllr Stewart	Cllr Chisnall	Cllr Laverick
Cllr Chapman	Cllr Samuels	Cllr Clinton
Cllr Williams		

