

# ***Notices of Motion***



**NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

**(i) Pest Control and Poison - Resistant Rats**

Recent figures have shown that Sunderland has one of the highest rates for call-outs to deal with rat sightings (5,304 last year – a rate of more than 19 per 1,000 residents), and that Sunderland City Council has dealt with more infestations of the rodent per head than almost any other authority in Britain.

This Council recognizes:

- That rats are a danger to the health and wellbeing of residents
- That the problem of an increasing rat population which is immune to many standard poisons must be addressed
- Inexpert use of poison can make the problem worse

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Cabinet to reintroduce the free pest control service for all residents
- To ask the Cabinet to publicize the risk of poison-resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can rat-proof their homes, for example fitting strips to the bottoms of doors, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent rodents gaining entry
- To ask the Cabinet to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of rats

Councillor N. Hodson  
Councillor S.F. O'Brien

**(ii) Litter in the City's Streets**

This Council recognises the level of public concern at litter in the city's streets and the lack of enforcement compared to neighbouring councils.

It will therefore resolve to increase the number of fines handed out for littering in a cost-neutral way by establishing its own enforcement company.

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

### **(iii) East Coast Mainline**

This Council notes with dismay the recent press reports that the Government intends to bail out the Joint Venture of Stagecoach and Virgin that currently operates the East Coast Mainline franchise to the tune of £2 billion.

We call upon the Government to ensure that the taxpayers of this country are not left holding the bill for this botched privatisation.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to demand that he ensures that Stagecoach and Virgin honour their commitments in the original franchise agreement.

Councillor M. Mordey  
Councillor C. Gofton  
Councillor S. Watson  
Councillor R. Bell  
Councillor M. Beck  
Councillor P. Gibson  
Councillor M. Speding  
Councillor T. Wright  
Councillor D.E. Snowdon  
Councillor J. Fletcher  
Councillor P. Walker  
Councillor A. Wilson  
Councillor H. Trueman  
Councillor A. Lawson  
Councillor S. Foster  
Councillor M. Elliott  
Councillor P. Tye  
Councillor D. Waller  
Councillor G. Walker  
Councillor R. Atkinson  
Councillor M. Essl  
Councillor J. Cummings  
Councillor D. Turner  
Councillor J. Blackburn  
Councillor B. McClennan  
Councillor V. O'Neil  
Councillor I. Kay