

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

(i) Action Against Modern Day Slavery

This council notes that though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This council believes it should take all necessary steps locally to root out and eradicate this scourge on society through raising general awareness of the abhorrent nature of modern slavery with local communities, employers and other stakeholders in Sunderland. In addition to take active steps to ensure any contracts and suppliers don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

This council therefore resolves

- To instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward as a matter of urgency a whole council policy covering both strategic and operational actions we can take to ensure traffickers and slave masters have no easy place to hide in Sunderland.
- In addition, as a founding member of the Co-operative Council Network to formally adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery attached, as part any whole council policy, to ensure our procurement practices don't directly or indirectly support slavery.
- As a council to report publically on the implementation of this policy and accompanying charter on an annual basis.

- Councillor Paul Stewart
- Councillor Geoffrey Walker
- Councillor Margaret Beck
- Councillor Michael Essl
- Councillor Michael Mordey
- Councillor Julia Jackson
- Councillor Alex Samuels
- Councillor Louise Farthing
- Councillor Neil MacKnight
- Councillor Elizabeth Gibson
- Councillor Christine Marshall
- Councillor Graeme Miller

- Councillor Juliana Heron
- Councillor Barry Curran
- Councillor Doris MacKnight
- Councillor Ronny Davison
- Councillor Bernie Scaplehorn
- Councillor Linda Williams
- Councillor Rebecca Atkinson
- Councillor Peter Walker
- Councillor Stuart Porthouse
- Councillor John Kelly
- Councillor Amy Wilson
- Councillor Debra Waller

Annex 1: Charter against modern slavery

Sunderland City Council will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this charter annually.

(ii) Great Jobs Agenda

This Council believes that:

Every job should be a great job. For us that means workers in Sunderland should be paid fairly; work in a safe and healthy workplace; be treated decently and with respect; have regular hours; have the chance to be represented by unions and be consulted on what matters at work; and get the chance to learn and progress at work and get on in life.

This Council resolves to:

1. Support the TUC's Great Jobs Agenda, which sets out the actions employers and the government must take for every job to be a great job.
2. Ensure as an employer we continue providing great jobs for our own employees.
3. Continue to value meaningful workforce engagement and representation through our recognised trade unions.
4. Continue our work with employers to influence their employment practices, and to ensure that business growth is sustainable and ethical.
5. Make increasing job quality a key part of the conversation when pursuing local economic development opportunities.
6. Use our commissioning and procurement processes where possible to raise employment standards amongst those suppliers and providers we work with.
7. Where appropriate, engage with government and other bodies who hold regulatory powers, to tackle issues which local authorities do not have statutory powers to address directly.
8. Write to our MPs informing them of our position and encouraging them to support the Great Jobs Agenda too.

Councillor Graeme Miller
Councillor Paul Stewart
Councillor Juliana Heron
Councillor Linda Williams
Councillor Rebecca Atkinson
Councillor Peter Walker
Councillor Bernard Scaplehorn
Councillor Stuart Porthouse
Councillor John Kelly
Councillor Geoffrey Walker
Councillor Amy Wilson
Councillor Michael Mordey
Councillor Louise Farthing
Councillor Debra Waller

(iii) Development of the Seafront

This Council notes the views of local residents on the development of the seafront in the city and agrees with concerns expressed about the provision of housing and leisure facilities.

Councillor George Howe
Councillor Robert Oliver

(iv) Commemorating 100 years of women's suffrage and Sunderland's first female councillor

This Council recognizes that 2018 represents a historic milestone, as it is the 100th anniversary of votes for women in the UK. The Representation of the People Act, passed on 6 February 1918, was a major step towards universal suffrage, giving women over the age of 30 who owned property, and all men over the age of 21, the right to vote.

This Council recognizes the achievements of the trail-blazing women campaigners and politicians in this city, including Sunderland's first female MP, Marion Phillips, and Ellen Elizabeth Bell, the city's first female councillor and first female alderman. Ellen Bell was elected to the then Town Council for the Hendon Ward at a by-election in October 1919, just over a year after women gained the right to vote.

Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

- Commend the role played by people in Sunderland and the North East in the long campaign that culminated in the Representation of the People Act becoming law
- Request the Chief Executive look into the feasibility of erecting a plaque or lasting memorial to Ellen Bell, on the centenary of her election to the Council in 2019
- Look into the feasibility of an event to commemorate the role played by local women in the campaign for equal votes, and in the public life of our city
- Encourage more people to register to vote to mark the centenary, and in particular to increase the number of young registered to vote

Councillor Niall Hodson
Councillor Martin Haswell
Councillor George Smith
Councillor Stephen O'Brien