

Local Government Act 1972

Borough of North Tyneside

27 September 2018

At the meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Tyneside duly convened and held on Thursday 27 September 2018 at 6.00 pm in The Chamber at Quadrant at which a quorum of Members were present, that is to say: -

Present

Councillor T Mulvenna (In the Chair)
N Redfearn (Elected Mayor)

Councillor J Allan	Councillor C Johnson
Councillor A Austin	Councillor J Kirwin
Councillor G Bell	Councillor K Lee
Councillor L Bell	Councillor F Lott
Councillor T Brady	Councillor W Lott
Councillor S Brockbank	Councillor G Madden
Councillor B Burdis	Councillor M Madden
Councillor C Burdis	Councillor P McIntyre
Councillor J Cassidy	Councillor D McMeekan
Councillor K A Clark	Councillor A McMullen
Councillor D Cox	Councillor J Mole
Councillor S L Cox	Councillor A Newman
Councillor N Craven	Councillor P Oliver
Councillor EN Darke	Councillor J O'Shea
Councillor L Darke	Councillor A Percy
Councillor S Day	Councillor S Phillips
Councillor D Drummond	Councillor C B Pickard
Councillor P Earley	Councillor M Rankin
Councillor R Glindon	Councillor W Samuel
Councillor S Graham	Councillor L Spillard
Councillor M A Green	Councillor J Stirling
Councillor M Hall	Councillor M Thirlaway
Councillor J L L Harrison	Councillor A Waggott-Fairley
Councillor E F J Hodson	Councillor J I Walker
Councillor John Hunter	Councillor J Wallace
Councillor Janet Hunter	Councillor F Weetman
Councillor N J Huscroft	

C34/09/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Bolger, P Brooks, C Davis, K Osborne, P Mason and M Reynolds.

C35/09/18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor K Clark - non-registerable personal interest in relation to agenda item 4 – Presentation: Vera Baird Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner. Her son-in-law is a serving officer in Northumbria Police Force.

Councillor D McMeekan - non-registerable personal interest in relation to agenda item 5 Motions. He is a member of Labour Friends of Israel and Jewish Labour Movement delegate to the Tynemouth Constituency Labour Party.

Councillor M Thirlaway - non-registerable personal interest in relation to agenda item 5 Motions – He is a member of Local Government Friends of Israel.

Councillor M Hall - non-registerable personal interest in relation to agenda item 11 Questions by Members of the Council (Question 2). Her son-in-law is involved in the development of the Nissan Waste project.

C36/09/18 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 July 2018 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair.

C37/09/18 Presentation by Dame Vera Baird, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Following an introduction by Councillor C Burdis, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, Vera Baird, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, accompanied by Superintendent Andy Huddleston, gave a presentation on the background to and work undertaken by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and Northumbria Police in North Tyneside.

The presentation provided an overview of:

- Reductions in funding for Northumbria Police since 2010 and impact on financial reserves
- Current financial position
- Reductions in Northumbria Police personnel
- Crime recording measures
- The changing nature and complexity of crimes and how they are policed

The Chair of Council invited Members to ask questions and to make comments.

A Member asked with regard to the growing concern with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), how the police were able to carry on supporting residents against the backdrop of Government funding cuts and reduced police numbers.

In response it was stated that North Tyneside had led the way in how to deal with ASB in particular in developing a series of volunteers who had themselves suffered from ASB.

It was stated that North Tyneside Housing service had developed an excellent support initiative to help people access the support needed. Northumbria Police had then funded the North Tyneside Council housing service to train the other five Local Authorities to set up a series of volunteers to help people to access support.

It was emphasised that police would stay in communities and would respond to ASB and they had clear targets to attend incidents within an hour. It was also stated that the police had new technology that enabled them to access information at the scene of any disturbance that would allow them to try and solve the issue at the scene.

Superintendent Huddlestone added that working with the Council, head teachers, and promoting the mini police and cadets scheme had helped to change young people's values.

A Member referred to the review of North Tyneside's Community Safety Strategy, which would be submitted for Council approval in the coming months and asked if any areas of the partnership needed strengthening.

In response it was stated that the North Tyneside Partnership was a very strong one and had achieved some tangible results, for example in respect to threats to schools from email attacks. It was stated that during recent attacks not one North Tyneside school had closed, where many did across the country. In the future having 24/7 crisis support for young people would be an area that the Police would like to be developed.

A Member asked what improvements had been made in relation to the 101 telephone number.

In response there was a detailed explanation and data provided to demonstrate the improvements that had taken place with the 101 telephone number, which was through the introduction of an automated initial access selection point that aided callers to be directed to the service needed to deal with their concern. It was also stated that Northumbria Police dealt with up to a million telephone calls a year.

A Member enquired what further work was being done around the Metro system with regards to ASB and crime.

In response it was stated that early discussions were taking place with Nexus to acquire a vehicle that would transport Special Constables around the metro system to respond quicker to issues when they arose. Special Constables would continue to travel on the Metro and be located at stations where issues occurred. It was also stated that the Police had a strong partnership with Nexus.

A Member questioned if there were any trends in policing that previously would have been dealt with by other agencies such as the NHS, for example mental health issues.

In response it was explained that the police were increasingly being used as the first resort instead of the Local Authority or NHS. With particular reference to mental health issues it

was stated that strategies were in place that would help the quicker assessment of individuals by working with community psychiatric nurses who were on call to assist the

Police by giving diagnosis, advice and access individuals' health notes and to enable the most appropriate course of action to be taken.

The Cabinet Member and Chair thanked Vera Baird and Superintendent Huddleston for their presentation.

C38/09/18 Motions

It was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor M Thirlaway that:

The Cabinet adopted a new Equality and Diversity Policy on the 10th April 2017. Since then there has been an annual review, the latest being 30th June 2018. Since this review and in light of recent media coverage of Anti-semitism, I have been contacted by residents and representatives of North Tyneside Council's Holocaust Memorial Day Committee to ask if the Authority will sign up to the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-semitism, and the supporting guidelines.

I requested that the officers review our policy and advise how we could give assurances that we totally opposed Anti-semitism. As a result of my review, I will be asking Cabinet at its next meeting to amend our Equality and Diversity Policy to include the IHRA definition and supporting guidelines (as set out below). Although alterations to this policy are an executive function I am asking the Council Meeting to endorse this action so that we can present a unified position that we will not tolerate Anti-semitism.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Anti-semitism and supporting guidelines:

"Anti-semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Anti-semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-semitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

An amendment was moved by Councillor A Austin and seconded by Councillor J Wallace as follows:

To add:

“North Tyneside Council appreciates the level of public concern regarding the problem of anti-Semitism and the need to condemn it unanimously. We therefore instruct the Elected Mayor to write to all councillors who are not present to vote on the motion, and ask them to express their agreement with its content in the form of a letter of support sent to her within 14 days”.

The mover and seconder of the amendment agreed to alter the amendment by replacing ‘instruct’ with ‘request’.

Two Members present requested a recorded vote on the amendment in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 (5).

Votes for the Amendment

Councillors A Austin, S Brockbank, E Hodson, P McIntyre, J Wallace and F Weetman.

Votes against the Amendment

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor, Councillors J Allan, G Bell, L Bell, T Brady, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S L Cox, N Craven, EN Darke, L Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, R Glindon, S Graham, M A Green, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, N J Huscroft, C Johnson, J Kirwin, K Lee, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, D McMeekan, A McMullen, J Mole, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O’Shea, A Percy, S Phillips, C B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, L Spillard, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, A Waggott-Fairley and J I Walker.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was defeated by 49 votes to 6 votes.

The substantive motion was debated and two Members present requested a recorded vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 (5).

Votes for the Motion

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor, Councillors J Allan, A Austin, G Bell, L Bell, T Brady, S Brockbank, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S L Cox, N Craven, EN Darke, L Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, R Glindon, S Graham, M A Green, M Hall, J Harrison, E Hodson, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, N J Huscroft, C Johnson, J Kirwin, K Lee, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, P McIntyre, D McMeekan, A McMullen, J Mole, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O’Shea, A Percy, S Phillips, C B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, L Spillard, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, A Waggott-Fairley, J I Walker, J Wallace and F Weetman.

Votes against the Motion

None.

The substantive motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 55 votes to 0 votes.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 (9) (i), it was moved by Councillor B Pickard and seconded by Councillor F Lott to proceed to the next business – agenda item 6: 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter.

The procedural motion was debated and two Members present requested a recorded vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 (5).

Votes for the Procedural Motion

N Redfearn, Elected Mayor, Councillors J Allan, G Bell, L Bell, T Brady, B Burdis, C Burdis, J Cassidy, K Clark, D Cox, S L Cox, N Craven, EN Darke, L Darke, S Day, D Drummond, P Earley, R Glindon, S Graham, M A Green, M Hall, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, John Hunter, N J Huscroft, C Johnson, J Kirwin, K Lee, F Lott, W Lott, G Madden, M Madden, D McMeekan, A McMullen, J Mole, T Mulvenna, A Newman, P Oliver, J O’Shea, A Percy, S Phillips, C B Pickard, M Rankin, W Samuel, L Spillard, J Stirling, M Thirlaway, A Waggott-Fairley, J I Walker and F Weetman.

Votes against the Procedural Motion

Councillors A Austin, S Brockbank, E Hodson, P McIntyre and J Wallace.

The procedural motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 50 votes to 5 votes.

C39/09/18 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter

Council received the 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter from the Authority’s appointed auditors Mazars. The full Letter, covering the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 was attached as Appendix A to the report.

Councillor R Glindon welcomed Ms Diane Harold, Mazars to the meeting, who presented the Annual Audit Letter.

The Letter covered:

- The overall conclusion in respect of the Authority’s Financial Statements which included the annual governance statement;
- The assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money in the Authority’s use of resources;
- Future challenges facing the Authority; and
- Fees payable to Mazars for 2017/18.

Mazars had issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority’s accounts for 2017/18 and an unqualified Value for Money conclusion.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources thanked Mazars for their work as the Authority’s external auditors in recent years and Ms Harold for her presentation.

It was moved by Councillor R Glindon and seconded by Councillor B Pickard that:

Council notes the contents of the Annual Audit Letter.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 49 votes to 0 votes.

C40/09/18 The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

A report was received that sought delegated authority for the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure to exercise all powers and duties under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

This would include determining the level of fees under the Regulations following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, the Head of Finance and Senior Manager: Legal Services and Information Governance and the appointment of a suitably qualified inspector and where appropriate a listed veterinarian to undertake inspections of premises on which licensable activities were to take place.

It was moved by Councillor C Burdis and seconded by Councillor W Samuel that:

Council authorise:

- (1) the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure to exercise all powers and duties under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018; and
- (2) the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure to determine the level of fees required to implement the provisions of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, the Head of Finance and the Senior Manager: Legal Services and Information Governance.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was approved by 49 votes to 0 votes.

C41/09/18 Common Seal

Resolved that the Common Seal be affixed to all deeds and documents required for carrying into effect the various decisions of the Council made since its last meeting.

C42/09/18 Chair's Announcements

The Chair informed Members that a flyer had been circulated around the Chamber to promote Local Democracy Week 15-21 October. Various events would take place including the Youth Council Debate on Tuesday 16 October from 6-7pm in the Council Chamber and Members were encouraged to attend.

C43/09/18 Elected Mayor's Announcements

The Elected Mayor thanked those Members who had supported her on Friday evening when she had held a charity dinner in aid of North Tyneside Carers Centre - Young Carers Project.

She thanked those who had attended and those who had donated prizes for the raffle.

The event was a fantastic way to showcase the hard work that had been carried out at the Spanish City to local businesses and other colleagues, while raising much needed funds for this worthy cause and had raised in excess of £800.

The Elected Mayor stated that she had received many positive comments and feedback not only from those who had attended on the evening but also from many other people who had visited the Spanish City since its official opening to the public on 21 July.

C44/09/18 Questions by Members of the Council

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

Is the Mayor able yet to state publicly that North Tyneside Council is absolutely opposed to anti-Semitism, in all its forms, which we undertake at each annual Holocaust Day Memorial Ceremony?

The Elected Mayor responded as follows:

Yes, our current Equality and Diversity Policy already clearly states that North Tyneside Council will not under any circumstances tolerate discrimination.

As already raised under the first Motion on tonight's agenda, the policy review that I have requested aims to further strengthen this statement by asking Cabinet to amend the policy to include the IHRA definition and supporting guidelines.

Furthermore in order to present the unified position that as a Council we do not tolerate anti- Semitism, I have asked Council to endorse this action by Cabinet.

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

Is the Mayor able yet to announce that she has been able to cancel the plan to build an Energy from Waste plant in East Howdon adjacent to the Regional Sewerage Farm? Is she also able to announce that she has negotiated the cancellation of another proposed Energy from Waste plant close to the Nissan factory in Sunderland?

Councillor B Pickard responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

This is the third time this issue has been raised and I can only assume that Councillor Hodson has misunderstood the answers or we need to review the planning training. As we are all aware the Full Council delegates its responsibility for considering planning requests to the Planning Committee.

The Mayor has no part in the process for either granting or refusing planning permission. I am not a member of the Planning Committee either but both myself and the Mayor are opposed to this plant.

I supported residents in trying to oppose this to be developed in North Tyneside, I even attended the Planning Committee to speak against the development. I was disappointed it was not rejected but as a Councillor I have to uphold the legal process. You should be well aware that the right to appeal is granted to the applicant and not to the people who are

opposing the planning application, therefore we cannot change that particular issue. You will also know that they cannot even start the development work until they have an environmental licence. I have checked with planning officers and when they last checked the developers had not applied to the environment agency for a licence.

If and when they do apply, that would be the time when we can indicate our opposition.

I can't see any reason why we should remind the developers that they need to do this, we should just wait until they do then we move this forward.

In relation to the proposed plant in Washington next to the Nissan factory my understanding is, it is still going through the planning process and we have had no involvement in that process. It's a Sunderland Council planning process and I have looked on the website today and it looks like the whole planning process has stalled and reached the point where because a decision hasn't been made they have taken it back to have a look; however no wonder Councillor Hodson is asking the Mayor to look into this because the protestors have written to the Prime Minister asking her to stop the plant and obviously we know the problems she's got, he obviously has no confidence that the Prime Minister will stop it so I am sure the Mayor of North Tyneside is much more powerful to stop issues than the current Prime Minister.

I say to Councillor Hodson for the third time the answer is still the same - it has got planning permission and there is nothing we can do about it.

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor S Brockbank

At the previous Council meeting, where the completion of the final accounts were presented, it was identified that there is a £700,000 surplus in our finances. What does the Mayor intend to do with this extra funding?

Councillor R Glindon responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

Whilst I am happy to explain the detail I want to begin by saying how grateful I was that Cabinet and the officer team worked together so hard, in very difficult financial circumstances, to make sure our General Fund finished this year in the black.

This is despite unprecedented Government cuts and unfunded cost pressures that way exceed the Government's proposals on increased Council Tax.

Specifically at the end of the 2017/18 financial year the General Fund was in surplus by £0.722m. On the 28 May 2018 Cabinet agreed that the surplus balance would be used as follows:-

£0.200m - transferred to the General Fund balance which increased balances at 31 March 2018 to £6.804m.

£0.522m – transferred to the Strategic Reserve which increased balances at 31 March 2018 to £14.473m

General reserves have no restriction on their use and can be used to smooth the impact of significant pressures across the years, offset the budget requirement in year, and to mitigate the risks of unexpected events or emergencies.

Since 2003/04 the Authority has held a Strategic Reserve in its balance sheet. This has been used to manage significant financial pressures which can arise in year, or between years, for example to manage the significant pressures arising from equal pay settlements and costs of non-statutory redundancy payments

The surplus balance has not specifically been allocated to individual services but has been applied in line with the Council's reserves and balances policy. In the face of continued cuts and unfunded cost pressures, particularly in social care, it is critical the Authority maintains some financial resilience.

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor A Austin

Can the Mayor explain the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Committee, what it does, when it last met and how its work informs the development of Council policy?

The Elected Mayor responded as follows:

The Holocaust Memorial Committee consists of volunteers who are mostly, but not exclusively, from the Jewish community, a representative from Show Racism the Red Card and two councillors, Councillor Muriel Green (as Chair) and Councillor Matthew Thirlaway and is supported by two council officers. The Committee last met on 17 September 2018.

The Committee's purpose is to:

- promote equality, tolerance and understanding
- challenge racism and prejudice
- raise awareness of the Holocaust, all genocides, and all forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism, racism and homophobia.

While its work furthers the aims of both Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (a charity that seeks to raise awareness of the impact of all genocides in the 20th century, including the Holocaust); and our Equality and Diversity Policy, the volunteers' focus is on preparing for North Tyneside's Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event, not on the development of Council policy.

I have to say I am extremely disappointed to hear that Councillor Austin did not know about the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Committee, when for 7 of the last 17 years it has been there, there has been a North Tyneside Elected Mayor from her own political party.

I don't know why the last tory Mayor did not put anyone on this committee. I wonder if Councillor Austin knows we have a Memorial Garden just next to our building here at Quadrant and when I was Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, John Harrison when he was Mayor kindly found finances to make that happen and that garden was completed in 2009 in readiness for the commemoration of Anne Frank's 80th birthday.

The Garden of Remembrance, which is fully accessible, provides a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides and is only the second one in this country.

The former councillor David Charlton chaired the committee, so you know how long this Committee has been going on, before handing over to Councillor Muriel Green, who has done an amazing job in advancing this work.

Attendance at the Holocaust Memorial Day events aren't recorded; however there is a large audience each year who come together to commemorate those who lost their lives.

I received an email from Councillor Hodson stating that he had never seen me attending the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony. I have personally attended all but one of the Holocaust Memorial events and hosted two of them, and only missed last year due to illness.

Hopefully the majority of Members will be aware how much hard work and commitment goes into the preparation of the Holocaust Memorial Day. We have presentations from children and young people supported by their school, Council staff and members of the Committee. Each year even more schools take part in this special event. The ideas for the annual theme come entirely from the children and young people as do contributions of the other faiths present and guest speakers. The schools decide how to use the materials provided by the National Holocaust Memorial Committee. Children learn about and are encouraged to learn about all issues that relate to the Holocaust and genocides, which occurred in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. There have been some powerful messages sent out by these themes. How Councillor Hodson has not heard of them I do not know.

Membership of the Committee has changed over the years but has one original Jewish member who is now in his 90's, and he attended on 17 September 2018.

I remember when I was a member of this Committee Henry Moss was a very valuable member of this Committee. He has passed but I attended his funeral because he gave us so much support and help to move the Holocaust commemorations forward in North Tyneside.

There has always been a common aim and understanding and a very sound working relationship amongst all the members who work in schools in North Tyneside to educate our young people about the negative impact that intolerance, hatred and discrimination have upon society.

The Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations in North Tyneside have always been considered to be the best in the North East and this comes from the Jewish community who come to our days.

In addition to our children and young people, our Holocaust Memorial Day gives local residents the opportunity to pause and reflect on a very dark chapter of world history and think about the countless lives that were lost in the Holocaust and other genocides around the world.

Our young people from many schools visit the concentration camps and come back and tell about their experiences and talk to other children around the borough.

Hopefully residents couldn't fail to have noticed that we have lit the Lighthouse purple or Segedunum purple to launch the week and most of our opposition people live at the coast. Have they not seen that? Everybody else noticed it.

We must never forget these terrible events and the lessons of the Holocaust and I for one as a member of this Council am very proud that we are able to unite people each year and able to pause and remember the victims of these dreadful atrocities. Not only from the Holocaust but in the years since and sadly they continue in some parts of the world.

Councillor Brockbank stated he had been in touch with the Jewish community for several months. I have been in touch with the Jewish community for the last 10-12 years.

5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J Wallace

Can the Mayor assure the local Jewish community and all residents that all instances of anti-Semitism will be subject to the Council's disciplinary procedures?

The Elected Mayor responded as follows:

Can I assure the local Jewish community and all residents that all instances of anti-Semitism will be subject to the Council's disciplinary procedures? Yes, I can.

Our Equality and Diversity Policy makes clear that we will not tolerate discrimination, harassment and victimisation on any grounds.

Our disciplinary procedures require all leaders to maintain a culture that is free from bullying, discrimination and harassment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

With regard to Elected Members, the Code of Conduct states that we must:

- not do anything that would cause you to breach any equality laws. For example you must not make sexist and or racist remarks;
- treat others with respect;
- not bully any person;
- not conduct yourself in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing this Authority, or your office as a Member of the Authority into disrepute.

I am therefore confident that any instance of anti-Semitism would be subject to our robust disciplinary procedures. I am convinced that the Executive of this Labour Group would not tolerate this either.

6. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor M Thirlaway

Residents have raised concerns with me regarding irresponsible or illegal environmental issues such as littering, dog fouling and fly tipping in hotspots areas across the borough. I am pleased to see that the Mayor has introduced a new CCTV vehicle and environmental wardens to tackle this problem. Could she outline how this new system will operate?

Councillor C Johnson responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

We have listened to the residents' concerns and in response we have recently introduced a new 7 day a week environmental enforcement service.

The service consists of additional environmental wardens who will operate from early in the morning until late into the evening. The purpose of the team is to catch any

perpetrators committing environmental offences, as well as working with communities and schools to educate and advise.

The team will complement the good work already delivered by our environmental wardens - but we thought it important to strengthen our presence during evenings and weekends.

They will be making full use of the enforcement powers available to them, which includes the issue of community protection notices, fixed penalty notices, eviction orders, and injunctions where appropriate.

A new vehicle equipped with CCTV will assist the team collecting hard evidence that can support prosecution where appropriate.

I'm sure every Member in the chamber will agree North Tyneside is a great place to live work and visit.

I am confident this addition to our environmental services team will help ensure it stays that way.

7. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Cox

I took part in the stride out to the Lighthouse event and I am pleased to see that the Mayor has asked that this be made an annual event. It was good to see how many improvements have been made along the whole route and the genuine responses from participants and passing members of the public praising the fact that the regeneration has given people back a sense of pride in their area. Can the Mayor outline how she intends to build on this success and continue the process of regeneration for not only the coast but all areas of the borough?

The Elected Mayor responded as follows:

I am pleased Councillor Cox and 324 other people took part in the walk. I was delighted to be able to bring this fantastic event back to North Tyneside, which last happened in 2011 because the opposition didn't want it to go ahead.

I am very pleased so many people, of all ages, took part. It has showcased the wonderful work we have been able to do along our coastline and I have had many comments from the public commenting on how they feel once more to be proud to live in North Tyneside.

Councillor C Burdis and myself started to lead the walk but we were the last in, this was because we kept getting stopped by residents thanking us and telling us what fantastic work had been done and they were so proud of the area. It was an enjoyable walk and very positive.

However, there is always more to do. That is why I have asked for a new Regeneration Strategy to be produced and brought before Cabinet very soon. This document will explain how we intend to help shape North Tyneside and make sure it is fit for the future.

It will look forward; taking each portion of the Borough and thinking about its needs. What do we do for the population of Wallsend? What do we do for the businesses of Killingworth, Dudley, Longbenton and Forest Hall? How should we try to shape North Shields and how do we build on the success along the coast? I look forward to bringing

this forward next month and start working on the next chapter of our wonderful North Tyneside story.

8. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor A Newman

Can the Mayor outline what planning is taking place on the possible effects on the area as a result of Brexit?

The Elected Mayor responded as follows:

As Council is aware, the government are still negotiating with the European Union on what Brexit will mean in practice. This makes it extremely difficult for local authorities across the country to plan for the future. It also makes it difficult for businesses and residents to plan for their futures.

However, despite these uncertainties, we have been proactive in North Tyneside. We have worked with our partners in the public and private sectors, through the North East Brexit Group, to understand the potential impact. Earlier this year the group published a report on the potential impact of Brexit. It is available on the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership website for all Members to read if they so wish.

9. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Janet Hunter

Does the Mayor agree that the children, teachers and schools of North Tyneside should be commended upon another very positive set of exam results at A level, GCSE and in vocational subjects and that these results are a testament, not only to the hard work of all involved but also a further demonstration of the continuing high standards of education in the borough?

Councillor P Earley responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

Yes I absolutely agree our schools, teachers and most importantly young people should be congratulated on another successful year across all phases of the education system from early years through to sixth form.

The key measures in all phases are at least in line with expected national averages and many are above or well above.

Our A level academic results are the best ever and continue a 5 year improvement in achievement.

Our young people are well prepared when they leave school for the next stage in their education, training or for work and very few did not have a known destination.

I am particularly pleased that our young people who are disadvantaged and those who are looked after have achieved well and improved their outcomes.

10. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J Wallace

Now that the car park behind Northumberland Square in North Shields is closed, what replacement provision for free parking will be made in order to help support the town centre?

Councillor C Johnson responded on behalf of the Elected Mayor as follows:

The temporary car park at Upper Camden Street closed on 5 September as it forms part of the delivery of our ambitious investment plans for Northumberland Square. The site is now subject to an exciting new development that will transform what is a derelict row of former office buildings into 28 high quality new homes, bringing a much needed lift to this area.

I am fully aware that managing demand for parking in our town centres is a challenge for the borough, a fact that underpinned the principles of the recently approved Parking Strategy, introduced following widespread consultation.

The car park at Upper Camden Street was only ever intended to be available until the Northumberland Square site was redeveloped.

However, we will continue to offer free car parking at Norfolk Street Car Park (where there are 66 spaces) and at King Street Car Park (where there are 39 spaces). This means there are over 100 free car parking spaces in North Shields town centre for our residents and visitors alike.

We always listen and the North Shields Chamber of Commerce has been in talks about free parking and we will continually review the situation going forward.