

# North Tyneside Council Report to Council 21 March 2019

## ITEM 4

### Motions

Notice has been received of the following motions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

#### 1. Motion signed by Councillors C Johnson, Andy Newman and W Samuel

We, the proposers of this Motion note that:

- 14 million people, a fifth of the population, live in poverty - four million of them are more than 50% below the poverty line, and 1.5 million are destitute, unable to afford basic essentials.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, visited the UK in November, including the North East. At the end of his mission, Professor Alston concluded: *“The costs of austerity have fallen disproportionately upon the poor, women, racial and ethnic minorities, children, single parents, and people with disabilities. The changes to taxes and benefits since 2010 have been highly regressive, and the policies have taken the highest toll on those least able to bear it. The experience of the United Kingdom, especially since 2010, underscores the conclusion that poverty is a political choice.”*
- That North Tyneside council has a strong record of ensuring peoples social and economic rights are met.

We recognise that:

Everyone is entitled to the right to education, adequate housing, healthcare, food, social security and a decent standard of living, and everyone has the right to hold the government and other public authorities to account for the decisions that affect them.

North Tyneside Council calls upon the Mayor:

- To express support for local campaigns and activities that defend and promote social rights.
- To write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions outlining the impacts of austerity on local residents and urging them to a) assess the cumulative impact of tax and spending decisions since 2010, b) prioritise the reversal of particularly regressive measures,

including the benefit freeze and c) restore the link between social security entitlements and the cost of living.

- To write to the Prime Minister urging her to commence the socio-economic duty of the Equality Act 2010.

#### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Authority arising directly from the motion.

#### Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.