MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
ON WEDNESDAY 3 April 2019 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne (David Down)

Councillors: D Ahad, A Ainsley, I Ali, P Allen, R Ashby, O Avery, G Bell, J Byrne,
N Casey, A Chisholm, D Cook, N Cott, M Davis, M Donnelly, J Driscoll,
V Dunn, A Durrant, L Ellis, S Fairlie, C Ferguson, P Frew, T Gordon,
D Greenhough, R Higgins, B Hindmarsh, L Hobson, P Holland,
D Huddart, B Hunter, G Keating, N Kemp, K Kilgour, A King,
J Kingsland, S Lambert, P Lovatt, A Lower, P Lower, M Lowson,
J McCarty, F Mendelson, G Pattison, C Penny-Evans, S Postlethwaite,
S Powers, H Rahman, K Robinson, A Schofield, R Shatwell, E Shorton,
O Shorton, H Stephenson, J Stephenson, J Stokel-Walker, G Stone,
M Talbot, W Taylor, N Todd, I Tokell, K Webster, M Williams,
T Woodwark, D Wood, M Wood, S Wood and W Young

102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Allison, Beecham, Forbes, Gallagher,
Hall, McGuinness, Jacqui Robinson and Wright.

103 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2019 were agreed as a
correct record.

104 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the city and the Council, the Lord Mayor offered deepest condolences
to the people of New Zealand after the horrifying terrorist attack in Christchurch
last month.

As this was the last business meeting of City Council before the local elections on 2
May, the Lord Mayor thanked all members for their service over recent years,
especially those members who were standing down.

105 CORRESPONDENCE

Council agreed to receive correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State for Justice and the Minister of State for Immigration.
PETITIONS

The Lord Mayor advised that a petition with more than local 2,500 signatures had been received and would be the subject of a time-limited debate.

Taymar Pitman presented the petition which stressed the importance of the requested actions and called on Newcastle City Council to declare a climate emergency, and

1. Publicly report on progress regarding the 2010 ‘Declaration on Climate Change’, ‘Climate Action Plan’ and 2014 ‘Mayors Adapt’ commitments, within 6 months.
2. Update the Climate Action Plan within 6 months, to make Newcastle climate neutral before 2030.
3. Set specific targets to reduce carbon in housing, transport, domestic waste and council buildings and report on progress annually. Include carbon reduction implications in all policy decision-making.
4. To end Council investment in fossil fuels within 3 years, and call for staff pension fund divestment.

Councillor Kemp thanked Ms Pitman for presenting the petition. He disagreed with the statement that the City Council was not taking climate change seriously. The City Council took this responsibility very seriously and was committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability. As Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Kemp was proud to say that the administration would declare a climate emergency at this meeting. He also highlighted some of the work already undertaken including:-

- The elimination of single use plastics from council buildings and leading the way in encouraging businesses to reduce or eliminate such plastics from their day-to-day business;
- The Council had also recently announced its 40 year partnership with ENGIE to build new district heating schemes in the city;
- The Council also continued to improve the electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the city including deploying rapid chargers;
- Good progress had been made deploying solar panels across a number of different types of buildings and lower energy lighting had been installed in many public buildings.
- Support services for commercial businesses had been developed to help further their efforts around energy efficiency and the Council had secured income to provide support and advice to the most vulnerable in the city to continue to help residents to secure the best energy deal;
- The Council had also signed up to the government’s public sector Emissions Reduction Pledge and continued to work in partnership with a wide range of networks and organisations;
- The current climate change plan committed the city to achieving a 50% reduction in carbon emissions on 2005 levels by 2030 but the City Council now committed itself to a revised plan setting a new target of making Newcastle carbon neutral by 2030.
- The Council would also establish a Climate Change Convention bringing together businesses, residents, academics and public sector representatives to agree a citywide plan of behaviour change and action. The Convention would provide the opportunity to come together as a city and make a real
difference. The Council would work with the Convention to lobby central government for funding to assist in achieving these challenging targets and look to the North of Tyne Combined Authority to align with this programme. Councillor Kemp also commented on how young people had come together to demand change in recent months and said that the Council supported them as we are entering a climate change emergency. The Council believed that further radical action was needed now to show leadership on this issue. Councillor Kemp proposed that Council note the petition as the issue of climate change would be debated further later in the meeting.

Councillor Dunn seconded Councillor Kemp’s response to the petition.

Councillor Taylor raised the Notice of Motion calling for Council to declare a Climate Emergency which was an item later on the agenda. She went on to talk about the February pupil strike, calling on the government to declare a climate emergency and take active steps to tackle the problem, and said it was a testament to the passion and awareness of young people to fight for their future. The Council had not done enough to refresh the climate change strategy and work was urgently needed to get on with this.

Councillor Kemp responded by pointing to his comments about the climate change emergency and the calling of a convention, which took the action further as the challenge could not be addressed by the City Council alone.

RESOLVED – That Council agreed to note the petition.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question 1 from Amir Ahmed to Councillor Kemp regarding the decision of Newcastle Airport to close its taxi rank and replace taxis with private hire cars.

Councillor Kemp thanked Mr Ahmed for his question and stated that he appreciated the concern that the Airport Taxi Drivers’ Association had in this area but clarified that the decision was taken by the airport as an entirely separate entity to the Council.

Following emails from members of the Association Council officers had contacted the airport and requested information around replacement operations. Council Kemp had made clear in emails to drivers that the airport contract was put out to tender six months ago and an alternative firm won the contract and are now recruiting. The Council as a Licensing Authority had no power to decide taxi access rights on private land. However, officers would continue to raise the concerns of drivers and also suggested that this could be raised at the first meeting of the taxi drivers’ forum.

Question 2 from Zulfaqaar Youssaf to Councillor Kemp requesting the Council to ask the Newcastle Airport Board of Directors to consider allowing Newcastle City Council to establish a Hackney Carriage Taxi Rank at the Airport.

Councillor Kemp thanked Mr Youssaf for his question and replied that, whilst the Council could make the airport aware of the concerns, it had no powers to overturn
this decision. Whilst the Council could not force the airport to create a hackney rank he was more than happy for himself and officers to work on what measures could be taken to support the drivers. Councillor Kemp would ask officers to look at this with a view to making progress.

Mr Youssaf replied that his colleagues were not just taxi drivers - they were ambassadors for Newcastle as the first point of contact for people from all over the world.

Public address by Judith Campbell.

Ms Campbell, a lifelong Throckley resident, addressed Council on fighting climate change at the local level and the benefits of living in a significantly cleaner, less polluted environment.

Councillor Kemp thanked Ms Campbell for her address and responded that the Council took its responsibilities for protecting the natural environment and the health of residents extremely seriously. There was a strong environmental driver running through the development plans which promote the protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure network and natural environment across the city. Amongst these was the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which ensured that wildlife was a consideration in planning decisions. Councillor Kemp gave reassurance that all planning applications were assessed against national and local planning policy, including compliance with the requirements as to detailed assessments of the impact of any development on the natural environment. However, it would be inappropriate to comment on any specific live planning application. Alongside the Council’s planning role sat its commitment to fighting climate change and the latest steps and actions had been explained earlier in response to the petition and would be discussed further later in the meeting.

Ms Campbell responded that she was mindful that a live planning application could not be discussed but she believed that mining belonged in the past and that there was no place for it in Throckley.

**NEWCASTLE FAIRTRADE PARTNERSHIP - FAIRTRADE CITY STATUS RENEWAL**

Submitted: Report of the Deputy Leader of Council to inform members about the recent work of the Newcastle Fairtrade Partnership and ask Council to support the renewal of the City’s Fairtrade status with the Fairtrade Foundation (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Councillor McCarty introduced and moved the report, seconded by Councillor Todd.

Councillor Anita Lower contributed to the discussion on this item.

**RESOLVED** – Council considered the report and endorsed the Newcastle Fairtrade Partnership’s plan to renew Newcastle’s Fairtrade City status.
CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

(a)  Cabinet Member update - Employment

Submitted: Report of Cabinet Member for Employment (previously circulated and copy attached to official minutes).

Councillor Bell (Cabinet Member – Employment) presented the report and stated the portfolio concentrated on ensuring the ways that the Council could create the best possible opportunities for residents in terms of good quality jobs whilst creating a modern vibrant 21st century city. Councillor Bell took the opportunity to thank all staff who had contributed to the success across the portfolio - without their commitment and expertise the progress would not have been possible.

He went on to highlight some of the achievements including:-

- developments in the city centre retail offer, the development of the former Bank of England site, the second phase of investment at Central Gateway and the progress on the Helix development;
- the opening of the Eagles community arena;
- the fact that unemployment remained at a low level;
- four projects had been through the community led local development programme (CLLD);
- new high quality student accommodation was still in demand;
- Newcastle University had agreed terms to purchase the old General Hospital Site;
- a new school in Dinnington village had opened, in addition to the new city centre hotel and the UTC and 4,400 more residents were now employed compared to one year ago.

Councillors Lambert, Ashby, Higgins, Stone, Postlethwaite, Huddart and Driscoll put questions to the portfolio holder.

Councillor Bell responses included:-

- Regarding barriers to accessing employment opportunities for the over 50s, there was a national trend for more over 50s to be employed and this was replicated in Newcastle. It was important that people were able to work irrespective of age. Community led programmes had been successful at getting people back into work and supporting existing businesses.
- A no deal Brexit would be devastating for the north east and for businesses; this area relied on exports and approximately 80% of exports went to Europe.
- CLLD was one of the programmes operating through European funding (and Councillor Bell declared an interest as a board member) and confirmed that funding was secure to the end of the projects.
- MIPIM had been a fantastic success. A partner in attendance had indicated that funding arrangements would be in place by quarter 3 of this year for a large project to go ahead (subject to planning). Newcastle was now on the global stage and it was right that the city had a platform at the event.
- Congratulations went to the voluntary sector and the Scotswood Community Garden as it had secured £0.5 million in European funding.
The Gateway 2 project at the rear of the Central Station was now tabled with the NELEP. Work was ongoing with the national rail companies and other partners involved. The proposals would improve the station and also open up access to the area and release more land.

The ENGIE partnership would be able to provide joint heating and cooling facilities on the Helix project and work was underway to see how this could be rolled out to join up as many heating networks as possible.

Following a bidding process the Council had received £16 million from government for infrastructure improvements to support the construction of new homes at Helix, Ouseburn and in the Outer West. More housing sites would also offer more opportunities for businesses and for people who needed jobs.

RESOLVED – That Council agreed to receive the report.

(b) Cabinet Member update - Communities

Submitted: Report of Cabinet Member for Communities (previously circulated and copy attached to official minutes).

Councillor Rahman (Cabinet Member – Communities) presented the first report annual report of the new portfolio which had been created to ensure that neighbourhoods and the people who made them a success were central to how the Council operated. Newcastle was a vibrant open and welcoming city. Residents took great pride in uniting behind shared values, which could be seen in a number of ways, including special events such as Freedom City to the annual Chinese New Year festivals. The portfolio demonstrated how the City Council was committed to supporting and protecting committees by providing a safe environment for people to live and to thrive.

Councillor Rahman thanked all the staff who contributed to the success of the portfolio responsibilities. He thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for highlighting the absence of any reference to human trafficking and modern-day slavery in this report. He acknowledged and welcomed those comments and would ensure that future reports would cover this topic. Information on this subject would be circulated by emails to members on this.

Councillors Holland, A Lower, Greenhough, Lovatt, Avery, Stone, Schofield, Allen put questions to the portfolio holder.

In response Councillor Rahman advised that:

- With regard to the Shout Up campaign around challenging harassment in bars he would provide a full response but from October 2018 a further 25 venues had signed up.
- Newcastle had been upgraded to a Prevent priority area and that he would be looking at rolling out training for members to bring them up to date with their responsibilities in respect to that.
- He had been honoured to have received a prestigious accolade from the British Muslim Awards.
• The intention was to roll out the CCTV pilot from West Denton (which allowed the police and fire service to access footage) as well as basing Safe Newcastle officers in police stations for a proportion if their time.
• Councillor Lovatt was asked to email his questions on litter, dog mess, anti-social behaviour and graffiti to the Cabinet Member for a full response.
• Councillor Rahman agreed that the vandalization against the Bahr Academy was shocking and said racism had no place in this wonderful city. He confirmed that the Home Office had increased the amount of funding earmarked for places of worship to help make them secure. He had begun to have discussions with officers to see if the Council was in a position to bid for funding and to provide additional support faith communities.
• Councillor Rahman asked that Councillor Stone email his question on the PCC budget and council tax precept and he would provide a full response.
• He stated that the Unity Carnival was a great example of how inclusiveness was achieved.
• Muslim communities should not feel that the Prevent programme focussed on them. It did not target or demonise Muslim or any other communities. The Council had a duty of care to protect the most vulnerable. However, tackling far right extremism was a very serious concern and he hoped to open up a debate with elected members and members of the community who felt that they were being demonised to quash any notion of this.
• Councillor Rahman was more than happy to meet with Parklands Ward members to discuss the questions raised around combatting anti social behaviour. He asked Councillor Allen to email her list of questions to him.
• With regard to right wing demonstrations motivated by prejudice or hate he said that he would not want to see any of the extreme groups in this city, but the reality was that the Council had no power to ban them. This was the responsibility of the police, but he would continue to discuss this with the PCC and Northumbria Police.

RESOLVED – That Council agreed to receive the report.

(c) Cabinet member update - DLOC and Housing

Submitted: Report of Deputy Leader of Council Cabinet Member for Communities (previously circulated and copy attached to official minutes).

Councillor McCarty (Cabinet Member – Communities) thanked all staff for supporting the delivery of priorities in the portfolio and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for considering the issues. She continued to be proud of the Council’s achievements in active inclusion, in homelessness, the commitment to affordable and supported housing – all highlights of the work over the last year. There was a new area of work around the devolution deal and the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

Councillor McCarty asked for her thanks to be recorded to councillor colleagues, officers, partners in the voluntary and community sector, in business, working in the health sector and beyond, who supported the work and helped the Council to deliver on important issues for residents.
Councillors Talbot, Huddart, Postlethwaite, Cott, Young, Casey, Ferguson and Chisholm put questions to the portfolio holder.

In response Councillor McCarty advised that:

- With regard to Selective Licensing and the proposed extension of the scheme, a full analysis of the consultation responses was underway. There were some landlords in the city who were not supportive of extending the scheme although the overwhelming view of tenants was supportive. The Council wanted everyone in the city to live in a decent home and Cabinet would take a decision probably over the summer.

- The Council needed to encourage and support private landlords to take tenants on Universal Credit. The support structures offered through the Welfare Rights and Active Inclusion teams ensured that people struggling with debt could be supported.

- The minimal 15% affordable housing target had been exceeded over the last two years. In the main supported housing developments across the city were being built on brownfield sites.

- The Air Quality Consultation was a joint process between Newcastle, North Tyneside and Gateshead Councils which was seeking to take action to solve a public health emergency. It was a problem that could not be ignored as it contributed to hundreds of deaths a year and it was time to face up to it. The Council would prefer to invest in public transport and behaviour change but the government had made clear, as a result of a high court ruling, that fast action was necessary and the preference to solve this was charging people to use polluted roads. The powers the government was relying on to bring in these changes could only be introduced by councils; there were no powers under law for elected mayors or combined authorities to impose or block air quality measures. The legislation only empowered highways authorities - the North of Tyne Combined Authority was not a highways authority.

- Ward governance had not moved down the agenda. There were still opportunities for members to support and work with local communities. However, as a result of austerity the Council did not have the staff that it had in 2010 to deliver it as it previously did. The Council did engage with residents at the ward level over a number of issues and members were encouraged to take opportunities to bring their communities together to discuss important issues.

- Neighbourhood plans at the parish council level were down to local communities to develop but elected members could provide support.

- Councillor McCarty confirmed that disability was a protected characteristic. The Council took into account the needs of disabled people as well as the needs of all those with protected characteristics.

- There were people across the city who continued to be affected by the bedroom tax and growing numbers relying on foodbanks. The Welfare Rights Team working with the Housing Benefit Team and others across the Council would do all they could to support people who were struggling.

- What the Council had shown through the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer programme was not the work funded by government for two years, but the last ten years of working together to try and prevent people ending up homeless. The Council had set out an aim this week to work for
Housing First, a different approach, which put people into proper housing rather than hostels.
- For the last few years an independent report from the Newcastle CVS to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group had set out how the voluntary and community sector had been impacted as a result of austerity since 2010. The Council was about to consult on proposals around the Newcastle Fund for next year and the funding for this year had already been agreed.
- The centenary of 100 years of council housing should be celebrated and the Pendower Estate had already had an event. The Council wanted to see council housing develop further over the next 100 years.
- In terms of rough sleeping and the problems of homelessness in the city there was not a significant problem with possibly six each night sleeping on the streets who needed to be offered support. Some of the people sleeping on the streets had been evicted from hostel accommodation as they were not able to comply with the rules. Street Zero had been launched and the Council would support this initiative.

RESOLVED – That Council agreed to receive the report.

110 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Lord Mayor advised that one oral question had been received (from Councillor King regarding the reinstatement of regular committees at the local level.

Councillor Bell responded that the Council had robust governance processes in place for the Great park. The spine road went through rigorous planning assessments and was granted planning permission in 2017. All technical issues were also fully assessed during this process and all comments received from residents were taken into account in the decision making process. This was also subject to an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman who found there was no fault on the Council’s part in dealing with planning matters. Following discussions with ward members the Council was in the process of setting up quarterly meetings to assist with communications between residents, stakeholders and the consortium. The first meeting was scheduled for 9 April 2019. The Great Park had a number of established resident forums and new groups were emerging. The Great Park Board was chaired by the Director of Place and the Council’s website provided information to keep residents informed of progress.

The new developments in Callerton and Throckley were welcomed. It would take some time for these new communities to become established. The progress of the developments would continue to be monitored and the Council would support the establishment of the new communities.

The Lord Mayor informed Council that one question for written reply had also been received; the response had been circulated at the meeting and was displayed in the foyer.
APPOINTMENTS

Submitted: Report by Service Manager Democratic Services (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

RESOLVED – That Council approved the appointment as set out in the report.

NOTICE OF MOTION - INCREASED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

In accordance with the notice previously given Councillor McCarty moved, seconded by Councillor Kilgour, that:-

“Newcastle City Council notes that:

The public health grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for delivering most of these services, but their ability to do so is compromised by public health grant reductions and the broader funding climate.

In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before. Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health costs local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity. Unless we restore public health funding, our health and care system will remain locked in a ‘treatment’ approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.

The Government is looking to phase out the Public Health Grant by 2020/21. Thereafter, they plan to fund public health via 75% business rates retention. Whatever the model, it is vital that local authorities have enough funding to deliver the functions and services they need to provide for their community. People living in the more deprived areas suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges.

Newcastle City Council further notes that:

Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. Smoking accounts for 80,000 early deaths every year and remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Smoking-related ill health costs local authorities £760 million every year in social care costs. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively. All three increase the risk of: cancer, diabetes, lung and heart conditions, poor mental health and create a subsequent burden on health and social care.

Newcastle City Council believes that:

The impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore. This case becomes more pressing given the Government’s consideration of a 10-year plan for the NHS. For this reason, we support Cancer Research UK’s call for increased and sustainable public health funding. We will also continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health,
reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.

Newcastle City Council resolves to:

Call on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a ‘prevention first’ approach.”

As an amendment Councillor Taylor moved that the Notice of Motion be amended by such deletions and/or insertions or additions as may be necessary so that the amended Motion would read:-

“Newcastle City Council notes that:

The public health grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for delivering most of these services, but their ability to do so is compromised by public health grant reductions and the broader funding climate.

In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before. Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health costs local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity. Unless we restore public health funding, our health and care system will remain locked in a ‘treatment’ approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.

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Newcastle City Council further notes that:

Early interventions that help build healthy habits, support parents and identify early those children at risk of harm, are essential.

Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. Smoking accounts for 80,000 early deaths every year and remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Smoking related ill health costs local authorities £760 million every year in social care costs. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively. All three increase the risk of: cancer, diabetes, lung and heart conditions, poor mental health and create a subsequent burden on health and social care.
The UK has the highest rates of childhood obesity in western Europe. The largest cause of childhood admission to hospital is tooth decay: 40,000 children a year are admitted.

Physical inactivity is responsible for one in six UK deaths (an impact on health that is equal to smoking) and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually.

Studies have also shown that life expectancy differs substantially between different BAME groups. This is particularly marked when considering the disability-free life expectancy (the average age that an individual is expected to live free of disability), which ranges from 67 years for Chinese women to 55.1 years for Pakistani women.

Trans people can fail to access services, because of poor system or service design. For example, missing out on potentially life-saving health screening, because of inflexibility in the way medical data is recorded.

Government has a duty to protect us from the things beyond our control that can harm our health, such as air pollution or poor housing.

Newcastle City Council believes that:

The impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore. This case becomes more pressing given the Government’s consideration of a 10-year plan for the NHS. For this reason, we support Cancer Research UK’s call for increased and sustainable public health funding. We will also continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.

Newcastle City Council resolves to:

Call on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a ‘prevention first’ approach.”

Councillor King seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor Schofield contributed to the debate on the motion.

At this point during the debate Councillor Woodwark proposed that Standing Order 19(b) (General Limit on Length of Meetings) (Guillotine) be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 27 to enable the remainder of the business to be dealt with.

Councillor McCarty indicated that, whilst she was not willing to support the extension of the guillotine for an unlimited period of time, she would be content for a vote to be taken on the current matter without further debate and the guillotine to be suspended until 9pm to allow the final notice of motion on the agenda to be debated.
Following clarification of the procedural position from the Assistant Director Legal Services a vote was taken on the motion to suspend the guillotine without limitation. The motion was not carried with 15 votes in favour and 41 against.

The motion to move to the vote on the current matter and suspend the guillotine until 9pm was agreed without a vote.

Councillor King, who had reserved his right to speak as seconder of the amendment, then spoke.

Councillor McCarty, as mover of the motion, spoke in reply and confirmed that she was willing to accept the amendment.

RESOLVED – That the motion as amended was agreed by Council as follows.

“Newcastle City Council notes that:

The public health grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for delivering most of these services, but their ability to do so is compromised by public health grant reductions and the broader funding climate.

In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before. Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health costs local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity. Unless we restore public health funding, our health and care system will remain locked in a ‘treatment’ approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.

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Newcastle City Council further notes that:

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Government has a duty to protect us from the things beyond our control that can harm our health, such as air pollution or poor housing.

Newcastle City Council believes that:

The impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore. This case becomes more pressing given the Government’s consideration of a 10-year plan for the NHS. For this reason, we support Cancer Research UK’s call for increased and sustainable public health funding. We will also continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.

Newcastle City Council resolves to:

Call on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a ‘prevention first’ approach.”

113 NOTICE OF MOTION - SOCIAL RIGHTS

In accordance with the notice previously given Councillor McCarty moved the following. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kilgour.

“Newcastle City Council notes that:

- As a Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UK must take steps to the maximum of its available resources to achieve progressively the realisation of social rights.

- However, 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. In Newcastle 25% of our children are living in poverty, many of them in working households.
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.”

Despite being in the forefront of the Equality Act 2010 (section 1), successive governments have failed to bring the socio-economic duty to life.

Newcastle City Council recognises 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.

- The City Council adopted responsibility for the socio-economic duty in 2012.

Newcastle City Council resolves:

- 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, the two-child limit and the benefit cap, 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.”

In line with her earlier comments, Councillor McCarty proposed that the matter should move to the vote without debate. Opposition members indicated that they wanted to debate the motion prior to a vote being taken.

The Assistant Director Legal Services confirmed that debate was permissible on the notice of motion unless Council now agreed to move to the vote without debate.

Councillor Avery moved that the motion be put to the vote, seconded by Councillor Talbot. A named vote on this motion was requested by opposition members. It was agreed to move to the vote on the substantive motion by 45 votes in favour to 13 votes against.

The substantive motion was then agreed by Council without a vote.
RESOLVED – Newcastle City Council notes that:

- As a Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UK must take steps to the maximum of its available resources to achieve progressively the realisation of social rights.

- However, 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. In Newcastle 25% of our children are living in poverty, many of them in working households.

- 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.”

- Despite being in the forefront of the Equality Act 2010 (section 1), successive governments have failed to bring the socio-economic duty to life.

Newcastle City Council recognises 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.

- The City Council adopted responsibility for the socio-economic duty in 2012.

Newcastle City Council resolves:

- 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, the two-child limit and the benefit cap, 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.
NOTICE OF MOTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In accordance with the notice previously given Councillor Taylor moved the following motion. Councillor Stone seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

“Council notes:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

- In order to reduce runaway Global Warming and limit effects of Climate Breakdown, it is vital that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to 2 tonnes or less as soon as possible;

- Individuals cannot be expected to achieve this reduction alone. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;

- Current plans and local actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit before 2050. The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last year, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and states that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;

- Councils around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency.

Council endorses the view that:

- All governments whether national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Newcastle and the UK that all settlements commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

- Urban areas like Newcastle are well placed to lead in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;

- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a shared global priority;

- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).
Council calls on Cabinet to:

- Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’
- Update the 2010 Newcastle Declaration on Climate Change by pledging to make Newcastle upon Tyne carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Call on Westminster to provide powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
- Continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- End Council and TWPF investment in fossil fuels within three years
- Report to Council within six months the actions the Cabinet will take to address this emergency.”

As an amendment Councillor Kemp moved that the Notice of Motion be amended by such deletions and/or insertions or additions as may be necessary so that the amended Motion would read:-

“Council notes:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.;
- In order to reduce runaway Global Warming and limit effects of Climate Breakdown, it is vital that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to 2 tonnes or less as soon as possible;
- Individuals cannot be expected to achieve this reduction alone. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
- Current plans and local actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit before 2050.
- Councils around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency.

Council endorses the view that:
• All government bodies have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Change. It is important for the residents of Newcastle that we commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

• Urban areas such as Newcastle are well placed to lead in reducing carbon emissions as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;

• The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a shared global priority;

• Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people worldwide.

Council agrees to:

• Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’

• Update the 2010 Newcastle Declaration on Climate Change by pledging to make Newcastle upon Tyne carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

• Call on the government to provide powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

• Work with other government bodies and NGOs to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

• Work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans recognising that the council cannot deliver on this ambition alone;

• Ensure that representatives on the Tyne and Wear Pensions Fund continue to lobby for further disinvestment in fossil fuels;

• Report to Council as soon as possible on the actions the Cabinet will take to address this emergency.”

Councillor Williams seconded the amendment and reserved the right to speak. Councillor Dunn proposed a motion that a vote be taken now on the substantive motion without further debate. Councillor Ainsley seconded the motion.

Upon a vote being taken it was agreed to go to the vote on the substantive motion without further debate, by 41 votes in favour and 15 against.

Councillors Williams and Stone exercised their rights to speak and Councillor Taylor spoke in reply.

Following a vote, the amendment was carried by [41 votes in favour and 15 against]. The amended motion was then agreed by Council without a vote.
RESOLVED – Council notes:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world;

- In order to reduce runaway Global Warming and limit effects of Climate Breakdown, it is vital that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to 2 tonnes or less as soon as possible;

- Individuals cannot be expected to achieve this reduction alone. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;

- Current plans and local actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit before 2050.

- Councils around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency.

Council endorses the view that:

- All government bodies have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Change. It is important for the residents of Newcastle that we commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

- Urban areas such as Newcastle are well placed to lead in reducing carbon emissions as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;

- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a shared global priority;

- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people worldwide.

Council agrees to:

- Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’

- Update the 2010 Newcastle Declaration on Climate Change by pledging to make Newcastle upon Tyne carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

- Call on the government to provide powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

- Work with other government bodies and NGOs to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
• Work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans recognising that the council cannot deliver on this ambition alone;

• Ensure that representatives on the Tyne and Wear Pensions Fund continue to lobby for further disinvestment in fossil fuels;

• Report to Council as soon as possible on the actions the Cabinet will take to address this emergency.