

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 24 January 2013

ITEM 10

Title: Community Lettings
Policy

Portfolio(s): Community and Regulatory
Services

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor
Westwater

Report from Directorate: Chief Executive's Office

Report Author: Graham Haywood, Chief Executive (Tel: 6432001)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The report is prepared in response to Motion 2 that was approved at the full Council on 29 November 2012.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Council considers the recommendations set out in Section 6 of the main report attached as Appendix A.

1.3 Forward plan:

The item does not appear on the Forward Plan as it has arisen as the result of the Motion approved by Council on 29 November 2012.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Council Strategic Plan.

1.5 Information:

The investigation report completed by the Chief Executive is attached as Appendix A

1.6 Decision options:

There are a number of proposed actions for Council to consider in accordance with recommendations set out in the investigation report at Appendix A.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The proposed actions are necessary to make the Community Lettings policy explicit, fit for purpose and widely accessible to the public, Elected Members and staff.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix A – Investigation Report by the Chief Executive

1.9 Contact officers:

Graham Haywood, Chief Executive Tel: (0191) 6432001
Alison Campbell, Financial Business Manager (0191) 6437038

1.10 Background information:

Statements obtained from the Head of Legal Services, Senior Manager of Legal Services, Director of Community Services and Head of Cultural Services.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The staff, printing, and other costs to produce and implement the Policy will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

2.2 Legal Implications

The Council is subject to an overriding duty to ensure that its resources, including its buildings and other premises, facilities and equipment, are not used for improper purposes, such as for party political purposes. This does not of course prevent use of Council resources for Council or ward business.

An exception to this principle applies once an election is called. During the pre-election period, candidates themselves are by law generally entitled to use publicly-funded meeting rooms (as well as school premises) for the purpose of holding public meetings to promote their candidacy, but not for other purposes.

The proposed Policy and Protocol referred to in the report would be formulated with appropriate advice from the Monitoring Officer.

The management of Council premises, including establishing and reviewing lettings policy, charges etc is a function of Cabinet.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

The report proposes consultation within the actions to develop a new Community Lettings Policy.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive

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- Strategic Director(s)

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- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)

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- Chief Finance Officer

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- Monitoring Officer

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- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships

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