

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 23 October 2014

ITEM 5

Title: 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 J O'Shea, E Darke, C Davis and B Pickard

"The council supports the Mayors vision of a coastal regeneration strategy.

In particular her view that we need a comprehensive plan for the regeneration of the sea front at Whitley Bay.

Past attempts at a piecemeal approach by the previous administration, of individual projects, resulted in inaction and doubt that the much needed regeneration of the Whitley Bay seafront would be completed.

The council welcomes the news that a strategic plan will be published soon that will allow residents to be consulted on the Mayors comprehensive plan for Whitley Bay."

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion. Funding for the Coastal Regeneration Strategy is included in the 2014-2018 Investment Plan.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this motion.

2. Motion signed by Councillors K Osborne, J O'Shea, E Darke and C Davis

"This council notes the work of unions Unite, GMB, RMT and the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association in highlighting the dangers posed by the Deregulation Bill, currently passing through parliament, to passengers of private hire taxis.

Further, this council notes that 3 amendments are of particular concern:

Amendment 8 – Allowing anyone with an ordinary driver's licence to drive a private hire vehicle (PHV) when it is "off-duty".

- This proposal will make members of the public vulnerable to illegal pickups when the (licensed) vehicle is being driven by an unlicensed driver.

Amendment 9 – Making the standard duration for all taxi and PHV driver licences three years and five years for all PHV operator licences.

- Whilst the vast majority of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers and Private Hire Vehicle operators are persons of high integrity, it is unfortunately the case that the industry does attract a small percentage of unsuitable persons, Annual licensing of drivers and operators is the only realistic way to keep track of their behaviour and take remedial or preventative action when required.

Amendment 10 – Allowing private hire operators to sub-contract bookings to operators licensed in a different district.

- The public will lose their right to choose, which operator they wish to travel with because they call operator A who is their preferred choice and operator B turns up.

The Council requests the Mayor and Cabinet to consider:

Calling on the Government to scrap amendments 8, 9 and 10 from the Deregulation Bill.

Further, in light of the risks to residents of North Tyneside, the council campaigns for the removal of these amendments from the Bill.

To write to the two North Tyneside MPs and ask them to support the campaign.”

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this motion. The purpose of the Deregulation Bill is to:

- make provision for the reduction of burdens resulting from legislation for businesses or other organisations or for individuals;
- make provision for the repeal of legislation which no longer has practical use; and
- make provision about the exercise of regulatory functions and for connected purposes.

In summary, the amendments will change the legislation affecting taxis and private hire vehicles in three ways:

- Clause 10 - allowing anyone with an ordinary driver's licence to drive a private hire vehicle when it is 'off duty'. The benefit of this measure would allow families to use a private hire vehicle as a family car, freeing up the need to run a second family car;

- Clause 11 - making the standard duration for all taxi and private hire driver licences 3 years and for private hire operator licences, 5 years. Further, it is proposed, that shorter durations will only be granted on a case-by-case basis where this can be justified. This, it is considered, will reduce the financial and administrative burden of having to make more frequent licence renewals;
- Clause 12 - allowing private hire operators to sub-contract bookings to operators licensed in a different district. The basis of this is the belief that this would improve an operator's ability to meet passengers' needs and make the passengers experience more convenient.

There has been no formal consultation on the above proposals and are described by the Government as being part of its drive to reduce the overall burden of regulation on business and individuals.

If there are any changes to the proposals detailed above these will be reported to Council at the meeting.

3. Motion signed by Councillors C Johnson, J O'Shea, E Darke and C Davis

"North Tyneside Council recognises and applauds the invaluable research of North Institute for Cancer Research (NICR) based at Newcastle University and Cancer Research UK which has helped to reduce the number of cancer deaths in the borough.

Council welcomes the assurances from the Cabinet member, John Harrison at the last council meeting that, North Tyneside council is already taking action on rogue sun bed shop operators in the borough.

Council notes:

Cancer UK's research which shows that the use of sun bed for the first time before age 35 increases the risk of malignant melanoma by 59%, and use at any age increases malignant melanoma risk by 20-25%.

The results of a national survey conducted by Public Health England (PHE), of more than 3,000 11-17 year-olds, which found that:

- 5% of the under 18s said they have used sun beds despite a ban on under-18s;
- More than half (53%) who have used a sun bed said they were never asked for ID to prove their age;
- That four in 10 had never been given health advice on the potential harms of sun beds, or on differences between skin types;
- 100% of children using coin-operated sun beds regularly had been burnt at least once.

Council further notes that:

The Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly, recognises the causal link between sun bed use and skin cancer, have taken a number of steps to regulate the industry, while this coalition government, more intent upon so called 'red-tape', only bans the use of sun beds by under 18s.

Council requests the Mayor and Cabinet to consider:

To follow the lead of Liverpool City Council and others, by supporting their national campaign on the Government to give every local authority in England the power to licence and regulate sun bed businesses, to ensure they follow a minimum number of health, safety and good practice guidelines;

To write to the two North Tyneside MPs and ask them to support the campaign;

To work with partners to highlight the dangers of using sun beds, in particular for people under the age of 18."

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion. If approved, the only resource implications will be in terms of officer time.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this motion.

4. Motion signed by Councillors J Wallace, D Lilly, E Hodson and P Mason

"This Council supports the principle of England Votes for English Laws in the Parliament at Westminster with the same timetable for implementation of this principle as that promised to the people of Scotland for the new powers to be granted to the Scottish Parliament, and this Council requests the Elected Mayor to write to the Members of Parliament representing Tynemouth and North Tyneside constituencies asking them to confirm that they will support this principle and timetable."

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this motion.

The issue of English votes for English laws, commonly known as the West Lothian question, refers to whether MPs from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, sitting in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, should be able to vote on matters that affect only England.