

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 27 November 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 M Huscroft, M J Huscroft, N J Huscroft and D Ord

“This Council calls upon the elected Mayor, during the current budgetary process, to address the problems outlined in the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) 2012-2017 and considerably increase funding for roads and pavement repairs, in order to meet the needs and concerns of the residents of North Tyneside”.

2. Motion signed by Councillors B Pickard, L Spillard and J Harrison

“North Tyneside Council notes:

- The Coalition Government’s plans to increase firefighter pension contributions and raise the retirement age of all firefighters to 60;
- The recent breakdown in talks between the Government and unions on this issue; and
- The subsequent national 4 day fire strike that took place between 31 October and 3 November 2014 that strike action on this issue has been avoided in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Council believes:

- That firefighters across Tyne and Wear do a brave and heroic job putting at risk their own lives to protect our residents;
- That firefighters should be rewarded for this service to the public with a fair pension settlement upon retirement;
- That the current Coalition Government plan to force all firefighters to remain in active service to the age of 60 will put at risk the personal safety and mental wellbeing of firefighters and jeopardise the safety of the public; and
- That if devolved Governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have negotiated a fairer deal, then the Coalition Government can achieve the same for England.

Council therefore requests the Mayor:

- To write to the Fire Minister urging her to enter into urgent negotiations with the Fire Brigade Union in England with a new offer over pension contributions; and

- To write to Members of Parliament representing constituencies within the Tyne and Wear area to urge them to support Early Day Motion 454 (tabled at the Labour Party's Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) which calls on the annulment of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government's Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014.