

# North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 24 November 2016

## ITEM 6

Title: Motions

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

### **Motion 1 signed by Councillors A Waggott-Fairley, L Spillard and C Burdis**

#### ***“This Council calls upon the Elected Mayor:***

To write to the Pensions Minister, the Rt. Hon. Damian Green M.P., requesting his Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born between the 6th April 1950 and the 5th April 1960, who are affected by the significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011.

Hundreds of thousands of women, some of whom reside in North Tyneside, received little, or no, personal notification of the forthcoming changes. Some women eventually only received two years notice of a six year increase to their state pension age. They are unfairly bearing the burden of rushed and badly implemented legislation to increase the State Pension Age (SPA) based on an accelerated threshold rising too steeply, too quickly.

Retirement plans have been shattered, with devastating consequences.

Additionally, many of these women are already out of the employment market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer age discrimination in the workplace, so struggle to find meaningful long term employment commensurate with their experience.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially, resulting in hardship for many. These are women who have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance contributions, with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

Let us be clear, it is not the pension age itself that this motion disputes, it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time.

The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too steep and rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make suitable alternative arrangements to plan adequately for their old age.

This is an injustice to all women born in the 1950's and many are living in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make suitable alternative arrangements.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

### Legal Implications

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

## **Motion 2 signed by Councillors G Bell, A Newman and C Burdis**

### **‘Count Them In’**

***This Council calls upon the Elected Mayor to express the Council’s*** support for the campaign being promoted by The Royal British Legion to have questions added to the 2021 UK Census.

By asking for additional questions to the 2021 UK Census we can help public bodies and charities deliver the best services they can for our Armed Forces Community.

There are no official estimates of how many members of the Armed Forces live in North Tyneside.

It would help the Council work out the services needed to offer Veterans in North Tyneside greater support.

It is deeply disappointing that statistically we currently know more about the UK’s Jedi community than we do about those who have served their country.

It cannot be right that our servicemen and women, veterans and families are effectively hidden from official statistics.

We as a Council are proud of our servicemen and women and the greater Armed Forces family, please support the motion.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

### Legal Implications

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

## **Motion 3 signed by Councillors L Spillard, C Davis and B Pickard**

### **The Bus Services Bill motion for Local Authorities**

#### ***This Council notes:***

1. That the Bus Services Bill currently passing through Parliament includes Clause 21 that will effectively “prohibit a local authority from forming a company for the purposes of providing a local bus service”.
2. That the Localism Act (2011) provides general powers of competence to local authorities.
3. That municipal bus companies like Reading and Nottingham provide some of the best bus services in the country and have a successful track record of increasing bus passenger numbers and providing high quality bus services.

#### ***This Council believes:***

1. Clause 21 contradicts the general powers of competence and the spirit of the Localism Act 2011.
2. If there is a need, then Councils should be able to provide their own bus services.
3. Should they wish, Councils should be legally able to follow the model developed by Reading and Nottingham Local Authorities.
4. Consequently, Clause 21 should be omitted from the Bus Services Bill.

#### ***This Council resolves to ask the Mayor:***

1. To write to Lord Ahmad and to call on the Department for Transport to omit Clause 21 from the final legislation
2. To write to Alan Campbell MP and Mary Glendon MP to ask them to oppose clause 21 when the Bus Services Bill reaches the House of Commons and ask them to write to Lord Ahmad and the Department of Transport to raise concerns about Clause 21.

#### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

#### **Legal Implications**

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

If Clause 21 of the Bus Services Bill is enacted as currently drafted it will prohibit the Authority and any Local Authority from forming a company to provide local bus services.