



## South Tyneside Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on Thursday 23 January 2025 commencing at 6.00pm at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, South Shields. The Meeting of the Council is to be held for the transaction of the business specified below.

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# Agenda

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	<b>Pages</b>
1. Declarations of Interest	
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council 28 November 2024	<b>1-28</b>
3. Mayor's Announcements or Communications	<b>29-30</b>
4. To consider a report of the Director of Business and Resources on the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Ending 30 September 2024	<b>31-42</b>
5. To consider a report of the Director of Business and Resources on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26 <b>(Appendix sent as separate document)</b>	<b>43-52</b>
6. To consider the Annual Report of the Chair of Audit Committee 2023-2024	<b>53-62</b>
7. To consider a report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs on the Annual Report 2024	<b>63-130</b>
8. To consider a report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs on the Complaints, Compliments and Comments Policies Update	<b>131-196</b>
9. To consider a report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs to appoint to the membership of certain Committees of the Council	<b>197-202</b>

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10. To consider a report of the Director of Place Strategy on the Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers **203-242**

11. To consider a report of the Director of Place Strategy on the Gambling Act 2005 Proposed Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-28 **243-296**

12. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8 to deal with questions (if any) in the following order: **297-298**

- Questions from members of the public
- Questions from Elected Members
- Questions from Elected Members to Representatives of the Police, Integrated Transport and Fire Authorities

No questions have been received.

13. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 to deal with any petitions submitted (none received) **299-300**

There were no petitions presented to the meeting of Borough Council held on 17 October 2024.

14. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 to consider the following Notices of Motion: **301-307**

### **Motion 1 - Boys Need Bins**

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

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result.
- 1 in 25 men over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage yearly.
- 1 in 20 men aged 60 or over will experience bowel incontinence in the UK.
- Men who must dispose of sanitary waste (including incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, and ileostomy waste by-products) often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.

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

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- That men should be able to safely and hygienically dispose of incontinence products quickly and with dignity wherever they go.
- Men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste should have direct access to sanitary bins in male toilets.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Request that the Chief Executive for South Tyneside Council refer this Motion to Cabinet as soon as reasonably practicable for consideration as to potential increase in the Council's expenditure and recommendation for the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all Council male toilets, both our public and council workplace buildings.
- To further encourage other providers of public and workplace toilets within the Borough of South Tyneside to make male sanitary bins available in their facilities, using the South Tyneside Pledge and other networks.
- To actively promote and support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys Need Bins' campaign within the borough of South Tyneside.
- Requests that the Leader of South Tyneside Council write on behalf of the Council to Emma Lewell Buck MP and Kate Osborne MP, asking them to support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys Need Bins' campaign in their request for the Government to update any necessary regulations to ensure that 'suitable means for the disposal of sanitary dressings' is provided in all toilets.

**Reference:**

1. Prevalence of urinary incontinence in men, women, and children: Current evidence from the Fourth International Consultation on Incontinence. Brian S. Buckley, Marie Carmela M. Lapitan; Epidemiology Committee of the Fourth International Consultation on Incontinence, Paris, 2008. Available at: [pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)
  2. "Men's toilets should have sanitary bins," says a prostate cancer survivor. 22 June 2022. Available at: [bbc.co.uk/news](https://bbc.co.uk/news)
  3. Westminster Hall debate on bladder and bowel continence care, Volume 735, 29 June 2023. Available at [Hansard. Parliament.UK/commons](https://Hansard.Parliament.UK/commons)
  4. Workplace (Health, Safety, and Welfare) Regulations 1992: Approved Code of Practice and Guidance, Section 192, p. 38. Available at: [hse.gov.uk](https://hse.gov.uk)
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5. "Dispose with Dignity" Whitepaper. PHS Group & Prostate Cancer UK, 2 February 2023. Available at: [washrooms. I.e./equality/male-incontinence](#)
6. Member Debate under Order Standing 11.21(iv): Incontinence. Jenny Rathbone, 16:01:02, Section 222, 10 May 2023. Available at: [www.record.senedd.wales](http://www.record.senedd.wales)
7. Winchester Local Government News, 25 May 2023. Available at: [winchester.gov.uk/news](http://winchester.gov.uk/news)
8. Jersey Government News, 7 August 2023. Available at: [gov.je/news](http://gov.je/news)
9. Prostate Cancer Charity org UK

Signed

Councillors: Dawes (proposer)  
Gibson (seconder)  
Berkley                      P. Dean  
Clare                            Porthouse  
Dixon                           Potts  
Ellison                        Proudlock  
J. Taylor                      S. Dean  
Keegan                        Smith  
Kilgour                        Traynor  
McCabe                        Welsh  
Meling

## **Motion 2 – South Shields Post Office Proposed Closure**

South Tyneside Council expresses grave concern at proposals by the Post Office to streamline its central operations with plans to close more than 115 Crown Post Offices, including the South Shields Town Centre Post Office Branch.

We note that the Post Office has advised that they expect the King Street Post Office to be refranchised to new owners over the next five years as they continue their plans to move to a fully franchised Branch model.

The Council recognises that Post Offices form a vital part of the High Street, are a lifeline for local communities and their hard-working employees trusted by the public.

Council notes that the Leader has already written to:

- The Leader of the Council has already written to Nigel Railton, the Chair of the Post Office to express our opposition to the closure of the South
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Shields Crown Post Office, advising that a Post Office – whether a Crown Post Office or a franchised operation - must be at the heart of South Shields Town Centre. As well as this the Leader has also seek the support of the South Shields MP, Emma Lewell-Buck in opposing the closure of the South Shields Crown Post Office and urge her to work with Ministers to ensure that South Shields town centre retains a much used and valued Post Office writing to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds, outlining the vital nature of South Shield's Post Office to our community, and requesting the Government considers this as their engagement with the Post Office on this continues.

Accordingly, Council endorses the work already undertaken by the council Leader to this issue, agrees to write to the communication worker union expressing support for their campaign to retain the post office in King Street.

Signed

Councillors: Clare (proposer)  
Traynor (seconder)  
Carter  
Gibson  
Proudlock

### **Motion 3 – Civil Society Covenant**

This Council notes:

- This Council welcomes the announcement of the 'Civil Society Covenant'. The Principles for the Covenant are based around 4 high level principles of recognition, partnership, participation and transparency. These principles provide the starting point for developing the Covenant through a process of engagement across civil society and government.
  - The Civil Society Covenant refers to charities, voluntary organisations, trusts, social enterprises, mutuals and Community interest companies, churches and other faith based organisations. It was brought by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy. The framework aimed at transforming lives across the UK.
  - Charities are a great support to local authorities, underpinning public sector contracts with voluntary income equivalent to £2.4bn a year.
  - In the borough charities play a crucial role, our recent Child Poverty Summit as well as our past two poverty summits have brought together third sector partners and council bodies in support of tackling this key issue.
  - We worked with Out North East on our recent pride event, as well as other third sector partners on our recent Adversity to Diversity conference, both of which are leaving a powerful legacy of inclusion and tolerance in our borough.
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- The South Tyneside Council Welfare Team work collaboratively with partners to signpost residents to the most appropriate service for their issue, including Humankind, Citizens Advice, Hospitality and Hope, and WHiST.
- Our Anti-Poverty Strategy Co-ordinator works extensively with a range of support groups to maintain the financial security of residents to target welfare advice and services at our most vulnerable residents.
- The Government recognises this important symbiotic relationship and has published a set of guidelines for a reset on the relationship between the charity sector and central government, to build a new partnership based on trust and mutual respect.

This Council resolves to:

- Work with third sector partners to write a letter of support to the Stephanie Peacock MP, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport.
- Arrange a round table discussion with our Third Sector partners in the Borough and invite the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport.

Signed

Councillors: J. Taylor (proposer)  
Porthouse (seconder)  
Foreman  
Smith  
McHugh  
P. Dean

#### **Motion 4 – Scrapping the Two-Child Benefit Cap**

Factual background:

- The two-child limit on Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit was introduced in April 2017 by the Conservative government. It prevents families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than two children in the household.
  - As of 2024, families receive £3,455 per year for their second child under the child element of Universal Credit, and families subject to the cap lose out on this amount per year for each subsequent child.
  - This policy has been widely regarded as a principal driver of child poverty. This has been evidenced through peer reviewed research. There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in property.
  - Calls for its abolition have come from across the political spectrum. Scrapping the two-child limit would cost between £1.3B and £3.4B per year. A generally accepted costing of abolition is around £2.5B per year. This would immediately lift 250,000 children out of poverty and significantly reduce the level of poverty suffered by a further 850,000 children.
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- While October's budget offered a welcome change in direction from the previous government, there was little geared toward direct action on child poverty.
- The Labour party is on record as stating that it wishes to scrap the policy at some unspecified point in the future. It has the power to do so now if it wishes. October's budget included a raft of actions that were not in their manifesto.

The council notes that:

- The policy has failed to be successful on its own terms with it not helping or encouraging people back to work. Research carried out by the University of York has shown its introduction had no positive impacts on employment and earnings.
- The policy maintains and deepens the symptoms and causes of child poverty.
- The policy, in financial terms, costs far more than it saves. The direct cost of child poverty is £39B per year. The indirect costs are far broader.
- Research carried out by the right-wing thinktank, Onward, shows that the policy worsens child poverty, reduces welfare, and causes a range of indirect effects that reduce overall life outcomes.
- Abolishment of the policy may dramatically improve standards of health and reduce pressure on the NHS. This is evidenced by research carried out by the universities of Glasgow, Liverpool, and Newcastle.
- The policy, through its 'rape-clause', puts undue mental strain and anguish on women whose births are the result of coerced and non-consensual sex.

The council notes with concern that:

- South Tyneside has one of the highest deprivation rates in the UK. It is the 26th most deprived region in the country and nearly half (45%) of its neighbourhoods are in the most deprived 20% nationally.
- Over half a million children in the North East live in poverty. This equates to 35% of all children. Worryingly, this rises to over 39% in South Tyneside.
- In South Tyneside, almost 4,000 children in poverty live in households subject to the two-child limit. This is 13% of all children in South Tyneside.
- South Tyneside Council has a duty to advocate for these families in need, and a duty to pressure the national government to pursue policies that alleviate poverty and the causes of poverty.
- South Tyneside Council has established its broad ranging 'Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024'. The abolition of the two-child limit would greatly help in this endeavour.

The council believes that:

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- Nationally, the Labour party are committed to trying to alleviate the symptoms of child poverty and reducing the causes of poverty and that they are genuine in their commitment to abolishing the two-child limit in the future.
- However, given that there is the financial space for abolishment, this vague commitment should be turned into immediate action. Scrapping the policy is the simplest way to directly alleviate and reduce child poverty.
- South Tyneside Council has a duty to put its residents first. There is universal agreement that child poverty is a great injustice. Therefore, seeking abolishment is in-line with the wider commitments of the national government and the duties of South Tyneside Council.
- The Council's 'Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024' would be significantly aided by the abolishment of the two-child limit.

This council supports:

- Further research into potential savings/costs of removing the two-child limit, which the Institute of Fiscal Studies suggests may reduce as overall life outcomes improve.
- Continuing wider work in the community to alleviate poverty that fits into the 'Five Ambitions' identified within the Council's 'Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024'. South Tyneside Council is already involved in positive work to this end, such as the recent Child Poverty Summit.

Therefore, this council resolves to:

1. Oppose the two-child limit on Working Tax Credit and Universal Credit.
2. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to highlight the impact the two-child limit has had in South Tyneside and request the policy to be scrapped.
3. Further instruct the Leader of the Council to write to all MPs covering the South Tyneside area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to abolish the two-child limit.
4. Request that Cabinet consider the impact of the two-child limit on South Tyneside residents and determine whether there are any further measures the council could take to mitigate this.
5. Following the outcome of the recent Child Poverty Summit, to work directly with local school leaders to establish what needs the Council could help meet.

N.B. Figures quoted are from the IFS ([Child poverty: trends and policy options | Institute for Fiscal Studies](#)).

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Signed

Councillors: Francis (proposer)  
Davies (seconder)  
Gynn  
Ford  
Guy  
Herbert

Jonathan Tew  
Chief Executive

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