



Borough Council
23 January 2025

Borough Council Minutes

28 November 2024

Present: Councillors Cunningham (*in the Chair*), Berkley, Brenen, Brown, Carter, Clare, Coombes, Davies, Dawes, P Dean, S Dean, Dixon, Ellison, Foggon, Ford, Foreman, Francis, Gibson, Guy, Gynn, Hamilton, Harrison, Herbert, Keegan, Kennedy, Kilgour, Lamonte, Leask, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, McCabe, McHugh, McKeown, Meling, Myers, Oliver, Owens-Palmer, Porthouse, Potts, Proudlock, K Roberts, Robertson, Smith, Strike, Stonehouse, J Taylor, Traynor, Welsh, Wood, Yare. **50**

Apologies: Councillors Curtis, T Roberts, R Taylor, Thompson. **4**

The Chair reminded the public that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

Members were reminded of the Code of Conduct and Council Procedure Rules.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Keegan declared a personal interest in item 8, Residential Property Acquisition Policy as Chair of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee. She remained in the meeting during discussion and determination of the item.

Councillor Lamonte declared a personal interest in item 8, Residential Property Acquisition Policy as Vice Chair of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee. She remained in the meeting during discussion and determination of the item.

Councillor Owens-Palmer declared a pecuniary interest in item 8, Residential Property Acquisition Policy due to a personal interest in the scheme. She left the meeting during the discussion and determination of this item.

Councillor J Taylor declared a personal interest in item 5, Annual Report of the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee as Vice Chair of Standards Committee. She remained in the meeting during discussion and determination of the item.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council 17 October 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting of Borough Council held on 17 October 2024 be approved.

3. Mayor's Communications

The Mayor commended Bede's Helping Hands on receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Bede's Helping Hands was one of 281 organisations throughout the United Kingdom to receive this prestigious award in recognition of their outstanding community service.

The Mayor remarked upon the Remembrance events held across the borough on Sunday 10 November and Monday 11 November for Armistice, noting her pride at the hard work of all involved and the excellent attendance.

Members were informed of the sad passing of former Councillor Marie Coyle, elected in 1982 representing the Primrose Ward. She was the Mayoress to Councillor Pearson from 1985-1986 and retired in 1994. The Mayor advised of funeral arrangements for those wishing to attend.

4. LGBTQ+ Pride in South Tyneside 2024

Submitted: Report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Councillor Paul Dean, Lead Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Equalities, moved the report, and Peter Darrant, chair of Out North East, spoke on the report.

The report updated members on activity in South Tyneside in 2024 to celebrate global Pride month and to communicate support for the local LGBTQ+ community. Pride is a public celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual and other identities, rooted in the positive promotion of visibility, dignity and rights of groups of people who have historically been sidelined by society or faced discrimination for their bodies and lifestyles.

Within the North East, Northern Pride, a multi-day festival first established in 2008 taking place in Newcastle involving a parade and concerts, is the main annual regional Pride event, typically attracting over 70,000 people a year. Other well established regional Pride events include Durham Pride, which typically attracted crowds of more than 20,000.

In early 2024, the Council established a partnership with newly formed, inclusive events organisation Out North East, which enabled it to move forward with the ambition of organising a series of local Pride events, guided by LGBTQ+ colleagues with the required expertise and local and national relationships. Over 2024, working together with Out North East, and joining

forces with neighbouring local authorities Sunderland City Council and Gateshead Council, South Tyneside Council supported a number of events taking part across a three month summer programme.

Highlights of the events were outlined in the attached Out North East Pride Festival Report 2024, including the South Tyneside Summer Parade, which took place on 6th July 2024, kicking off a month of Pride-themed activity in South Tyneside. One of the four annual Summer Concerts taking place as part of the South Tyneside Festival was this year specifically branded as a 'Pride in South Tyneside' concert and attracted 20,000+ attendees. Other large-scale events incorporated into the wider South Tyneside programme of events were hosted by local LGBTQ+ and ally celebrities.

It was noted that over 2,000 hate messages had been received in response to the initiative, some of which were included in the report to show that although progress was positive, there was still a long way to go.

Councillor Smith thanked Peter and Out NorthEast for their help with the Hebburn event. He thanked the Leader for supporting the initiative and stated that the hateful comments received only served to highlight why these events were so important to the community.

Councillor Robertson noted the shift in attitudes and stated he would always call out hate speech.

Councillor Dixon noted her pride at the support the events had seen, showing South Tyneside to be a truly inclusive borough where people could feel safe as "one community".

Resolved: That the report be noted.

5. Annual Report of Independent Chair of Standards Committee

Submitted: Report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Councillor J Taylor, Lead Member Culture, Leisure and the Visitor Economy and the nominated Member of Standards Committee authorised to speak at Borough Council, moved the report. Professor Wright, Independent Chair of Standards Committee, spoke on the report.

This was the fourth report from the Standards Committee's Independent Chair and covered the period from August 2023 to August 2024. The report highlighted the work of the Committee, identified progress made in raising standards, and addressed issues requiring attention at future meetings. It was noted that the approved minutes and relevant agenda papers of Standards Committee meetings can be found on the Council's website for information.

Recent meetings and hearing dates were outlined, as well as Committee membership and an overview of the roles and responsibilities. In broad terms its focus was on three main activities:

- Monitoring and enhancing the Council's corporate complaints procedures, including consideration of any Local Government Ombudsman's Reports,
- Monitoring the Council's application of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and
- Monitoring and promoting enhanced standards of Members' ethical behaviour and dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Charts showing trends of corporate compliments and complaints, complaints under the Code of Conduct, and outcomes of hearings were detailed for Members' information. Corporate complaints were continuing to fall since their 2017 peak, however there was a relatively high number of complaints under the Code of Conduct, which currently stood at 239 since January 2020.

Professor Wright highlighted that Elected Members could help reduce such issues by considering their personal behaviour, collectively as a Council by reviewing the Constitution and in interactions with each other, and by party or group through collective decisions on how to handle disagreements.

Councillors expressed concern with regard to the figures for South Tyneside being so high compared to regional neighbours. It was noted that officers had to review each complaint received which was an extreme pressure on time.

Councillor Brown echoed calls to "disagree agreeably" and drew attention to the human cost of complaints and the effect on people's health.

Councillor Kilgour commented that the penalties currently available were insufficient and often were not comparable to the severity of the offence.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

6. Armed Forces Covenant Annual Update

Submitted: Report of the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Councillor Paul Dean, Lead Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Equalities presented the report which provided an update on the Council's work to support the Armed Forces Community, as set out in the Council Constitution.

In December 2011 South Tyneside Council, representatives of the Charitable and Voluntary Sectors, the Civilian Community of South Tyneside, and the Armed Forces Community in South Tyneside signed a Community Covenant agreeing to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant. This was replaced by the Armed Forces Covenant which the Council signed in March 2019.

The purpose of the Armed Forces Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in South Tyneside, as well as recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by members of the local Armed Forces Community, particularly those who had given the most. This

includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in South Tyneside.

In 2018, the Council was recognised by the Ministry of Defence as a Gold Award Holder in its Employer Recognition Scheme for Council employment working practices, as well as its work as an advocate for Armed Forces, and in October 2023, the Council was revalidated as a Gold Award Holder, recognising a consistent commitment to support those serving, those who have served and dependents and family members of those in the Armed Forces who are employed by the Council, or those in the community who access advice or support.

A summary of work undertaken since the last update included:

- Promoted support for Armed Forces in each edition of the all-household Residents Newsletter;
- Supported veteran organisations to sign up to 'South Tyneside Pledge';
- Facilitated a speaker from the local Army Reserve, 205 Battery, at a Pledge Spring networking event to promote the skills of reservists;
- Facilitated a speaker from Barratt Homes to speak at a Pledge Summer networking event to share practice from Barratt's well-established Armed Forces employee recruitment programme;
- Invited new pledgees, Veterans for Veterans in Care and DeMob Job Ltd to share their work at an Autumn Pledge networking event;
- Promoted Armed Forces within Pledge newsletters and promoted the community-led Veterans Walkway to local businesses;
- Supported Anchor Homes to strengthen their offer to Armed Forces, including promoting a veteran-friendly weekly lunch to non-resident veterans at Palmersdene Care Home in Jarrow;
- Delivered a community event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, with a flotilla of boats and community activity on the beach and a beacon lighting and entertainment at the Lawe Top;
- Delivered a community-wide annual "Armed Forces Day" as well as Borough-wide Remembrance Parades and services;
- Responded to feedback to promote the commemoration of "VJ Day" through a film on social media;
- Delivered a new "Uniformed Services" category in the community #LoveSouthTyneside Awards, with local business sponsorship funding a prize for the Award winner;
- Developed a new joint plan with the Tyne and Wear Lieutenancy to promote awareness of local Cadet forces;
- Welcomed those who have served in the Merchant Navy as a key element of the Armed Forces community in South Tyneside, with a representative of the local Merchant Navy Board appointed to the South Tyneside Armed Forces Forum;
- Supported a motion for, and subsequently implemented, a disregard of military pension in assessment for Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants;
- Promoted South Tyneside Council as an Armed Forces Friendly employer on LinkedIn media;

- Included armed forces in our Procurement Framework, alongside other social value indicators, with additional weighting for suppliers who employ veterans or sign up to the Armed Forces covenant and
- Revalidated as a Gold Award Holder in the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme.

Councillor P Dean thanked all those involved in organising and attending the Remembrance events across the Borough.

Councillor Ford stated that it had been an honour to be involved in recent Remembrance events and had been moved by the excellent turnout.

Resolved: That the progress since last update to Borough Council in January 2023 be noted.

Reason for Decision: To note the continued high standard of work to support Armed Forces, as accredited by the Ministry of Defence in their highest conferral of Gold Award.

7. School Attendance Regulations and Statutory Guidance 2024

Submitted: Report of the Director of Children's Services

Councillor Liz McHugh, Lead Member for Children and Families Social Care, Education and Skills presented the report providing an update on School Attendance Regulations and Statutory Guidance on attendance in schools which came into force on 19 August 2024. This guidance applied to all schools and local authorities and included a revised Code of Conduct in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices for non-attendance.

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, fulltime education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need that they might have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to ensure that their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or where education otherwise than at school has been arranged.

The Department for Education (DfE) released the document "Working Together to Improve School Attendance" in September 2022, placing a significant focus on a support-first approach when dealing with pupils who have difficulties attending school. The guidance recognises that improving school attendance is everybody's business and that the barriers to good school attendance can be system wide and complex, involving what happens both in school and then specifically around the circumstances of individual pupils and families. The statutory guidance set out responsibilities and expectations of all parties and was attached to the report for information.

All local authorities had received support and advice from the DfE to review attendance policies and procedures and establish "attendance" offers to schools. Through consultation with schools, the South Tyneside "School Attendance Handbook" was developed and shared with schools. In February 2024 the DfE released draft proposals to amend the statutory approach to

unauthorised absences; previously the decision to take statutory action and the thresholds were arranged locally. The proposed guidance included national targets and a national change to the framework for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence. The final regulations and statutory guidance were published with an implementation date of 19 August 2024.

Councillor Ford noted that school attendance had become a much larger concern during and since Covid. She felt that the penalties and the increase in penalties had penalised families on low incomes and those with family in other parts of the country and world. It had a disproportionate impact on lower income families. She emphasised that statutory reinforcement was only a small part of resolving the issue, and that resources and a clear strategy were needed.

Councillor Robertson referred to paragraph 16 of the report which stated that the income from fines were spent to improve good attendance and to work with families and schools to ensure this happened. He stated that in 23/24 the income from fixed penalty notices was £110,000, he requested a written explanation of how the funds from the fines were spent. Councillor McHugh stated this could be provided and advised that some of the funding was used to employ a team who would work with and support children.

In addition, when schools refer unauthorised absences to the Council in order to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, both parents are fined regardless of whether both were aware or allowed an unauthorised absence and regardless of their marital status. The report noted that issuing a fine may be unfair on one parent who had no knowledge or authority over this. Cllr Robertson asked how many parents the Council had taken legal action against with regard to these penalties, how many had been taken to court, what was the result in court and had the Council sent any bailiffs after families following this.

Councillor Gynn stressed the importance of knowing a families' circumstances and acknowledged that the only way to understand such circumstances was to actually knock on the door. She acknowledged the increasing pressure on schools to resolve these issues and stated that she felt there was a need to reintroduce an education welfare service.

Councillor Owens-Palmer stated that both locally and nationally there was not enough financial support for SEND and that this was being looked at by Central Government.

Resolved: That (a) the School Attendance Regulations and Statutory Guidance 2024 and their implications for improving attendance in South Tyneside be noted, (b) the revisions to South Tyneside Council's Attendance Policy and Code of Conduct for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for non-attendance in line with the new regulations be agreed, and (c) if it can be evidenced that one parent did not agree to the absence, the Council work with DFE in its review of the regulations as these relate to parental liability for Fixed Penalty Notices

Reason for decision: The recommendations are made as a result of a change to the Regulations and Statutory Guidance that came into effect on 19 August 2024.

8. Residential Property Acquisition

Submitted: Report of Director of Place Strategy

Councillor Jim Foreman, Lead Member for Housing and Community Safety, presented the report which sought approval from Borough Council to adopt the new Residential Property Acquisition Policy, as attached to the report.

The policy has been developed to establish a framework for the strategic acquisition of properties by the Council. By adhering to a structured approach, the Council can ensure that property acquisitions are conducted in a manner that maximises value for money as well as being fully open and transparent with the reasoning and purpose for each acquisition made within the Borough.

The policy will be applied where homes previously bought under Right to Buy (RTB) are later offered back to the Council. They could either be offered back voluntarily or through the Right of First Refusal (RoFR) option contained within the RTB regulations. In addition, specific accommodation may be purchased to address any specific housing need, or in response to a wider community need.

The policy clearly sets out the aims and objectives for purchasing residential accommodation within South Tyneside. This includes increasing affordable housing numbers, reducing empty homes and addressing specific housing needs of the borough, to be achieved through effective use of funding, providing high quality affordable homes in a transparent way.

Councillor Yare thanked Anna Milner for the development of the policy and welcomed that it had already been to the Housing, Environment Scrutiny Committee for comment and suggestions and looked forward to hearing about the implementation and performance of this policy.

Councillor Robertson raised concern with regard to the fact that the Council could now purchase properties that were Right to Buy. He further stated how the Council allowed 436 Housing Venture homes to be transferred to Karbon Homes and questioned why these houses were not “brought back into the Council”.

A named vote was requested and taken on the adoption of the policy. Votes were cast as follows:

Councillor Owens-Palmer left the chamber.

For: 36 (Berkley, Brown, Carter, Clare, Davies, Dawes, P Dean, S Dean, Dixon, Ellison, Ford, Foreman, Francis, Gibson, Gynn, Herbert, Keegan, Kilgour, Lamonte, Leask, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, McCabe, McHugh, McKeown, Meling, Porthouse, Potts, Proudlock, Smith, Stonehouse, Strike, J Taylor, Traynor, Welsh and Yare.)

Against: 12 (Brenen, Coombes, Foggon, Guy, Hamilton, Harrison, Kennedy, Myers, Oliver, K Roberts, Robertson and Wood.)

The policy was agreed.

Councillor Owens-Palmer returned to the chamber.

Resolved: That (a) the Policy as outlined in the report be adopted and its publication be authorised, and (b) a monitoring tool be developed to enable the regular reporting of purchases through the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for decision: Adoption of the Policy will assist the Council to identify properties for purchase, within financial limitations, whilst following set criteria and considerations. The monitoring process will ensure that we can reduce challenge and allow open scrutiny of the process through the committee.

9. Sustainable South Tyneside Annual Update 2024

Submitted: Report of Director of Place Strategy

Councillor Ernest Gibson, Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, presented the report which provided an annual update of the delivery actions against the Sustainable South Tyneside Strategy in support of the Council's target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to take all necessary steps to become carbon neutral by 2030. Following the climate emergency declaration, the Council developed the Sustainable South Tyneside Strategy and produced a 5-year action plan, which set out the foundation providing a platform of collective actions and a shared vision, which supports an ambition of a cleaner, greener, low carbon and resilient future.

In addition to the Climate Emergency, the Council has also declared an Ecological Emergency as well as an Ocean Recovery Declaration, demonstrating its commitment to realising the ambition of a sustainable South Tyneside.

The Council has signed up to the UK100 pledge, committing to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.

The Sustainable South Tyneside Strategy provides a coordinated approach towards climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements across the Council, supporting reductions in carbon emissions, while supporting promoting the development of a low carbon, sustainable and resilient Borough.

The Council established 2018/19 as the baseline year from which all future carbon emission reporting would be measured against. In 2019 it was calculated that the Council's baseline carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission figure was 17,140 tonnes.

To support the delivery of the emission reduction targets the Council set interim reduction figures of:

- 25% reduction within 3 years (March 2023)
- 50% reduction within 5 year (March 2025)

The first interim target was achieved in April 2023 with a reduction from the baseline of 5,170 tonnes, a 30% reduction. However, South Tyneside Council's operational emissions increased from 11,970 tonnes in 2022/23 to 12,211 tonnes in 2023/34, an increase of 241 tonnes. Total carbon emissions reduction against the baseline now stands at 4,929 tonnes, a 29% reduction.

Councillor Francis referred to the carbon emission position. He was pleased that the first interim target was achieved in April 2023 with a reduction from the baseline of 5,170 tonnes, a 30% reduction. He was disappointed that since then the operational emissions had not continued to improve and had increased from 11,970 tonnes in 2022/23 to 12,211 tonnes in 2023/34. An increase of 241 tonnes. He noted that he had submitted a Motion in July 2024 - Motion on a Local Approach to Delivering Net Zero which had asked for important steps to move forward to improve emissions and that at that meeting an amendment to that motion was agreed which changed the nature of the motion. He asked what had gone wrong and what was now in place to ensure the Council reduce emissions this year and make up for lost ground. In addition, he asked whether the Councillors who voted against the motion know that the figures had gone in wrong direction when they voted against the request for the very funding that is now needed. Councillor Ford agreed and questioned whether the Council was spending the money in the correct way to target these issues and suggested a cross-party task and finish group to look into what had gone wrong and what should be done to put it right.

Councillor Brown was grateful for the carbon literacy training he had received which was very informative.

Councillor Herbert noted his disappointment that the greenhouse gas targets had been missed and emissions risen, stating the need for the Climate Change

working group and the cross-party members task and finish group need to have a clear remit, targets and resources to meet the targets.

Councillor Gibson confirmed that a cross-party working group would be set up to discuss the way forward on a problem affecting everyone and noted the importance of educating people on the green agenda. It was noted that the Council was working with partners and that the North East Combined Authority Mayor, Kim McGuinness, had recently hosted a North East Net Zero Conference. He noted that the changes in figures were partly down to the fact that many people were not using their vehicles, they were not going to work due to the pandemic and the problems around the collection of data for Scope 3. Councillor Francis felt that private individuals' vehicles were not factored into council reporting and did not accept this point. Councillor Gibson asked all Members to engage with the Climate Change working group and promised to work with the opposition on this.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason for decision: It is essential that Members are updated and fully informed of the actions being taken to support the Council in achieving its ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2030, highlighting the progress being made in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions against the baseline, while detailing any changes in circumstances which impact on reportable figures.

10. Adult Principal Social Worker Annual Report

Submitted: Report of Director of Adult Social Services and Commissioning

Councillor Ruth Berkley, Lead Member for Adults, Independence and Health, presented the report which highlighted the role of the Principal Social Worker (PSW) in promoting excellence in adult social work/social care and the achievements made by the PSW and Assurance Quality Practice team in Adult Social Care and Commissioning for March 2023 - April 2024.

PSWs are a statutory requirement and referenced in the 2016 revised Care Act guidance, section 1.27, which states that the local authority should: "Have in place a designated Principal Social Worker in adult care and support. Local authorities should make arrangements to have a qualified and registered social work professional practice lead in place".

The benefits of having a dedicated and visible PSW ensures that there is professional practice oversight in place to lead, oversee, support and develop excellent social work practice and in turn lead the development of excellent social workers and social care practitioners. The PSW leads on quality assuring social work practice.

Successes across 2023/24 were highlighted as:

- A Person Journey
- Celebrating Practice
- Students, Apprentices and Newly Qualified

Strategic priorities for 2024/25 were:

- Workforce
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Refresh of Let's Talk Together and the Quality Assurance Framework
- Care Quality Commission Assurance Preparation

It was advised that South Tyneside Council had received notification of a CQC inspection.

Councillor Stonehouse noted the importance of retaining staff and avoiding burnout.

Councillor McCabe expressed support for engaging with local universities to bring in new workers. He praised the work of the Adult Principal Social Worker.

Resolved: That the annual report and work associated with the role of the Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care and the priorities for the forthcoming year be noted.

Reason for Decision: Endorsement of the report will ensure that Adult Social Care and Commissioning effectively discharge their statutory duty under the Care Act, 2014 by having a PSW in place fulfilling the requirements of the roles and responsibilities of the adult PSW as agreed by ADASS and the PSW Network, 2019.

11. Domestic Abuse Strategy

Submitted: Report of Director of Public Health

Councillor Berkley, Lead Member for Adults, Independence and Health, presented the report which promoted and shared the refresh of the South Tyneside Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-28, Domestic Abuse Annual Report 2023-24 Appendix B and Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs and Assets Assessment (JSNAA) 2023-24. The report also provided an update and overview of activities for White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2024 and the following United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The Council's first strategy covered a 3-year period, 2022-25 and was now due for refresh along with the domestic abuse JSNAA. An annual report had also been produced, showing what the Council had achieved, together with partners, over the last 12 months against priorities.

The refreshed strategy, attached to the report at Appendix A, outlined targets over the next 3 years, retaining the original vision and strategic priorities from the first strategy approved by Council in 2021. It outlined the challenges that

remained in the Borough, with 5,083 incidents reported to the police in 2023-24. These incidents related to 2,756 victims, with 1,209 of those victims being involved in repeat incidents. The strategy outlined areas for development with particular focus on children and young people, older aged victims and the workforce. It also provided the domestic abuse system with a clear focus and areas of future development.

The strategy, following approval, would be published on the Council website.

The Domestic Abuse Annual report, attached at Appendix B, provided an account of what has been done over the last 12 months. It highlighted the work of the local system partnership and the collective achievements and reflections. It detailed the changes that had been made to the domestic abuse offer in South Tyneside and how this has evolved, including the expansion of the in-house service Restart. In 2023-24, Restart had supported 2,959 clients.

Some of the other highlights included the development of the integrated hub, refreshing the branding and communications, the implementation of the targeted hub within Biddick Hall and Whiteleas with the Police and Restart working collectively with victims and perpetrators to reduce incidents, harm and break the cycle of abuse. The hub had seen some positive results, and a case study was provided within the report.

The theme for this year's White Ribbon Day is 'It starts with Men'. Together we can prevent violence against women and girls. Such violence is rooted in harmful masculine traits so the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to a fear of violence for women and girls in their day-to-day lives must be addressed.

This White Ribbon Day in November, the Council and partners are encouraging men to hold themselves accountable to women and to each other to affect positive behaviour change.

The Council is holding a short breakfast event on Monday 25 November, showcasing short clips of what businesses, charities and other partners in the borough are doing to help combat domestic abuse. This includes championing White Ribbon Day, encouraging staff/teams to call out inappropriate language or behaviour, or having resources to signpost your staff to advice and support.

Councillor Gynn welcomed the report and the importance of the White Ribbon project and suggested there be a change in language to refer to those experiencing Domestic Abuse as survivors rather than victims. The number of reported incidents of domestic violence in South Tyneside is one of the highest in the North East and must be treated as a priority with the appropriate resources. She noted her disappointment that funding had been withdrawn from impact family services and was extremely concerned that South Tyneside no longer had a refuge. There were units that provided temporary accommodation but did not provide the support and protection of a refuge.

The Leader responded and informed Council that the Housing options team support anyone fleeing Domestic Violence to ensure they are appropriately supported. It was recognised that while a refuge can be a vital lifeline, it may

not be appropriate for all as any males over 16 can not access a refuge and they do not allow pets. It was advised that there are 25 homeless units in the Borough which can be used to support women and families.

Councillor Berkley stated that there were 17 properties including an “emergency crash pad” being used to support those needing to escape their current situation.

Councillor Hamilton stated that the wording of the campaign could be made more transparent to emphasise that not all men are abusers and that they too can be victims of domestic violence. Councillor Berkley informed Council that men were being encouraged to become ambassadors, not every man was seen as an abuser. It was about recognising that men who do not support violence towards women and girls are now able to challenge these attitudes and call out abusive behaviour.

Resolved: That (a) the work outlined in the annual report be acknowledged, (b) the White Ribbon Campaign and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence be promoted, (c) the strategy be endorsed and published, and (d) the Lead Member and Domestic Abuse Champion write to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Home Secretary to support the continued investment in Domestic abuse and to confirm the funding available to local areas.

Reason for Decision: The Domestic Abuse Strategy development requires support from the whole system. The Council and its Members are a key partner to ensure we address the issues within our local communities and provide support to those affected by domestic abuse. Working together, we can break the cycle of domestic abuse and help families rebuild their lives.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor informed Council that unless it was agreed otherwise where three hours have elapsed from the commencement of the meeting the meeting will end in accordance with Rule 28.4. The Mayor asked if Council agreed to suspend Rule 7.1 and for to extend the meeting past three hours to finish the remaining business on the agenda.

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting be extended past three hours to allow for the remaining business to be considered.

11. To consider any questions received under Procedure Rule 8

No questions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 8.

12. To consider any petitions received under Procedure Rule 9

No petitions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 9.

No petitions had been submitted to Borough Council on 5 September 2024, therefore no updates were due from the appropriate bodies.

13. To consider any Motions received under Procedure Rule 10

Four motions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

Councillor Paul Dean moved the following motion:

Motion 1 Forces Cadets

This Council would like to acknowledge the wonderful service our forces Cadets provide all year round, but especially during our annual Remembrance Celebrations and Armed Forces Day Events.

This Council notes that:

In South Tyneside our Forces Cadets which include Air, Army, Police and Sea Cadets all play such a vital support to events, services and marching parades.

This Council Resolves:

To request that the Leader of South Tyneside Council and the Council's Armed Forces Champion write to all our Forces Cadets Units to thank them for their services to our Borough.

Signed

Councillors: P Dean (proposer)
S Dean (seconder)
Porthouse
Dawes
J Taylor
Dixon

The motion was seconded by Councillor S Dean.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Councillor Berkley moved the following motion:

Motion 2 White Ribbon

This Council notes:

Council notes that domestic abuse involves a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. The majority of cases by a partner or an ex-partner. Council recognises that domestic abuse can have profound long-term effects on survivors, including children, and is concerned that it is very difficult to speak out about domestic abuse, and often those that do are subject to further silencing tactics.

Council further recognises that domestic violence is a workplace issue and that it can affect employment performance, and in some cases even means the abuse is carried out in the workplace.

As an accredited White Ribbon employer, as we approach White Ribbon Day on 25 November, it is important that this Council reiterates its commitment to zero tolerance of domestic abuse. The opening of our Domestic Abuse Hub at the beginning of November, marks a significant milestone with our partners and communities to work together to project those individuals and families living with domestic abuse in our Borough.

This Council believes that domestic abuse policies form an essential part of a strategy to achieve equal opportunities in the workplace, and we work with our South Tyneside pledge businesses to ensure workplaces are places of safety for survivors of domestic abuse, with measures in place for their protection and an environment where individuals experiencing domestic abuse feel confident that they will be believed, listened to and treated supportively. Council recognises the invaluable work that our trade unions do in supporting recipients of domestic abuse in the workplace.

Resolution:

Council calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to:

- Lobby and influence the Government, including the Parliamentary Under Secretary of Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls Jess Philips MP to ensure a nationally funded network of domestic violence and abuse support services;
- Continue to work with our business partners to encourage and enable them to tackle domestic abuse in the workplace;
- Engage with our trade unions to support employees experiencing domestic abuse;
- Encourage and support partners to become accredited and White Ribbon organisations;
- Across the Borough commemorate those who have died as a result of domestic abuse;
- Council commends the Home Secretary's pledge to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade.

Signed

Councillors: Berkley (proposer)
Melting (seconder)
Carter
Porthouse
P Dean

The motion was seconded by Councillor Melting.

Councillor Francis moved an amendment to the motion, with changes in bold below:

This Council notes:

The White Ribbon campaign concerns all forms of violence against women and girls. Domestic abuse is a subset of this. Not all violence against women and girls is domestic abuse, and not all victims of domestic abuse are female. However, in specific relation to domestic abuse, council notes that domestic abuse [it] involves a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. The majority of cases by a partner or an ex-partner. Council recognises that domestic abuse can have profound long-term effects on survivors, including children, and is concerned that it is very difficult to speak out about domestic abuse, and often those that do are subject to further silencing tactics.

Council further recognises that domestic violence is a workplace issue and that it can affect employment performance, and in some cases even means the abuse is carried out in the workplace.

~~As an accredited White Ribbon employer, as we approach White Ribbon day on 25 November, it is important that this Council reiterates its commitment to zero tolerance of domestic abuse.~~ **The Council is an accredited White Ribbon Employer. White Ribbon Day, 25th November, acts as an important reminder to the Council's obligations to the White Ribbon. This entails action on ending male violence against women and girls. A key part of this is reiterating its zero-tolerance stance against domestic abuse.**

The opening of our Domestic Abuse Hub at the beginning of November, marks a significant milestone with our partners and communities to work together to project those individuals and families living with domestic abuse in our Borough.

This Council believes that domestic abuse policies form an essential part of a strategy to achieve equal opportunities in the workplace, and we work with our South Tyneside pledge businesses to ensure workplaces are places of safety for survivors of domestic abuse, with measures in place for their protection and an environment where individuals experiencing domestic abuse feel confident that they will be believed, listened to and treated supportively. Council recognises the invaluable work that our trade unions do in supporting recipients of domestic abuse in the workplace.

Resolution:

- Council calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to:
- Lobby and influence the Government, including the Parliamentary Under Secretary of Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls Jess Philips MP to ensure a nationally funded network of domestic violence and abuse support services;
- Continue to work with our business partners to encourage and enable them to tackle domestic abuse in the workplace;
- Engage with our trade unions to support employees experiencing domestic abuse;

- Encourage and support partners to become accredited and White Ribbon organisations;
- Across the Borough commemorate those who have died as a result of domestic abuse;
- Council commends the Home Secretary's pledge to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade. **Following the lead of White Ribbon, this demands work that goes beyond domestic abuse by addressing the root causes of men's violence against women: harmful attitudes, behaviours and systems around rigid gender norms and harmful expressions of masculinity that perpetuate gender inequality and gender-based violence.**
- Council also asks that the Cabinet give urgent consideration to increase budgetary allocations to:
 - Renew the financial support for Impact Family Services
 - Establish a refuge for women and their children

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Gynn.

A named vote was requested and taken on the amendment. The votes were cast as follows:

For: 13 (Brown, Coombes, Davies, Ford, Francis, Guy, Gynn, Herbert, Kennedy, McKeown, Owens-Palmer, Stonehouse and Yare.)

Against: 33 (Berkley, Carter, Clare, Dawes, P Dean, S Dean, Dixon, Ellison, Foggon, Foreman, Gibson, Hamilton, Harrison, Keegan, Kilgour, Lamonte, Leask, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, McCabe, McHugh, Meling, Porthouse, Potts, Proudlock, K Roberts, Robertson, Smith, Strike, J Taylor, Traynor, Welsh and Wood.)

Abstain: 3 (Brenen, Myers and Oliver)

The amendment was not carried, and the original motion remained the substantive motion.

The original motion was unanimously carried.

Councillor Smith moved the following motion:

Motion 3 Improving Councillor Conduct

This Council notes:

At the Local Government Conference on 24 October 2024, Secretary of State, Angela Rayner, gave a speech which detailed plans for improving Councillor conduct by starting a process of consultation which includes the consideration of a measure to allow Councils to suspend elected members who breach their local authority's code of conduct.

In March 2022, the Conservative government rejected a recommendation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life that local authorities should have the power to suspend Councillors without allowances for up to six months for breaches of code of conduct. This motion believes that was the wrong decision to make as the current standards regime is not effective enough in promoting positive behaviour and lacks effective sanctions for any elected member who may break the code of conduct.

This motion notes that it is vital that Councillors adopt behaviours and conduct fitting the role and responsibilities that we have. As Councillors, regardless of political allegiance, it is important that we are all held to the highest possible standards and behave in a manner that meets the expectations held by our residents. By adopting the standards set out in the code of conduct, and working in-line with the PROUD values, all South Tyneside Councillors can present a positive image of how politics should be conducted in the brought to our residents, and to those who may wish to stand for election in the future.

Resolution

This motion calls on the Leader of the Council, Tracey Dixon, to write to Secretary of State Angela Rayner to express South Tyneside Councillors support for her initiative to improve standards and call on the government to introduce legislation that would give local authorities the power to suspend Councillors who breach the code of conduct. This will help safeguard our residents trust in local government and democracy in South Tyneside.

Signed

Councillors: Smith (proposer)
Lamonte (seconder)
Proudlock
K Maxwell
Dawes

The motion was seconded by Councillor McHugh.

Councillor Guy moved an amendment to the motion, with changes in bold below:

This Council notes:

At the Local Government Conference on 24 October 2024, Secretary of State, Angela Rayner, gave a speech which detailed plans for improving Councillor conduct by starting a process of consultation which includes the consideration of a measure to allow Councils to suspend elected members who breach their local authority's code of conduct.

In March 2022, the Conservative government rejected a recommendation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life that local authorities should have the power to suspend Councillors without allowances for up to six months for breaches of code of conduct. ~~This motion believes that was the wrong decision to make as the current standards regime is not effective enough in promoting positive behaviour and lacks effective sanctions for any elected member who may break the code of conduct.~~

This Council believes any changes to the sanctions which can be imposed on democratically elected Councillors should be made only after consultation and careful consideration of the wider impacts to public trust. This Council believes it would be improper to assume the outcome of such future consultations.

This motion notes that it is vital that Councillors adopt behaviours and conduct fitting the role and responsibilities that we have. As Councillors, regardless of political allegiance, it is important that we are all held to the highest possible standards and behave in a manner that meets the expectations held by our residents. By adopting the standards set out in the code of conduct, and working in-line with the PROUD values, all South Tyneside Councillors can present a positive image of how politics should be conducted in the brought to our residents, and to those who may wish to stand for election in the future.

Resolution

This motion calls on the Leader of the Council, Tracey Dixon, to write to Secretary of State Angela Rayner to express South Tyneside Councillors support for her initiative to improve standards **beginning with a full public consultation.** ~~and call on the government to introduce legislation that would give local authorities the power to suspend Councillors who breach the code of conduct.~~ This **initiative** will help safeguard our residents trust in local government and democracy in South Tyneside.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A named vote was requested and taken on the amendment. The votes were cast as follows:

For: 18 (Davies, Foggon, Ford, Francis, Guy, Gynn, Hamilton, Harrison, Herbert, Kennedy, McKeown, Oliver, Owens-Palmer, K Roberts, Robertson, Stonehouse, Wood and Yare.)

Against: 31 (Berkley, Brenen, Brown, Carter, Clare, Coombes, Dawes, P Dean, S Dean, Dixon, Ellison, Foreman, Gibson, Keegan, Kilgour, Lamonte, Leask, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, McCabe, McHugh, Meling, Myers, Porthouse, Potts, Proudlock, Smith, Strike, J Taylor, Traynor and Welsh.)

The amendment was not carried, and the original motion remained the substantive motion.

A named vote was requested and taken on the original motion. The votes were cast as follows:

For: 28 (Berkley, Carter, Clare, Dawes, P Dean, S Dean, Dixon, Ellison, Ford, Foreman, Gibson, Keegan, Kilgour, Lamonte, Leask, K Maxwell, N Maxwell, McCabe,

McHugh, Meling, Porthouse, Potts, Proudlock, Smith, Strike, J Taylor, Traynor and Welsh.)

Against: 21 (Brenen, Brown, Coombes, Davies, Foggon, Francis, Guy, Gynn, Hamilton, Harrison, Herbert, Kennedy, McKeown, Myers, Oliver, Owens-Palmer, K Roberts, Robertson, Stonehouse, Wood and Yare.)

The motion was carried.

Councillor Yare moved that the meeting be adjourned. Councillor Ford seconded the motion.

A show of hands vote was taken. Votes were cast as follows:

For: 19

Against: 27

The motion was not carried and the meeting continued.

Councillor Carter moved the following motion:

Motion 4
Digital Inclusion

This Council notes:

This Council recognises the vital role of digital inclusion in promoting equal access to opportunities, particularly in areas such as South Tyneside, where employment rates are below the national average. Reliable digital connectivity empowers our residents to access essential services, secure employment, and participate in the digital economy, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life within the borough.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) highlights the positive effects of hybrid working on worker well-being, showing that it reduces stress and enhances work-life balance.

For those facing barriers to traditional work environments particularly individuals with disabilities or long-term health conditions digital connectivity offers a critical lifeline to economic and social participation. Such findings underscore the importance of stable and accessible digital infrastructure for a healthy, inclusive, and modern workplace.

The UK Government has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving gigabit broadband coverage for nearly all UK premises by 2030, with an interim target of 85% by 2025. This ambitious goal reflects the Government's recognition of digital infrastructure as a foundation for economic growth and social equality across all communities, including ours here in South Tyneside.

In our borough, 98% of households currently have access to Superfast broadband (up to 30 Mbps), 86% have access to Ultrafast broadband (between 100 and 300 Mbps), and only 15% have access to Full Fibre broadband, which provides gigabit capable speeds (1,000 Mbps or more). Additionally, 509 households are without access to any form of reliable broadband, leaving these residents disconnected from essential digital resources and support.

The Government's Project Gigabit, a £5 billion programme targeting digital 'not-spots' and underserved regions, represents an opportunity to address these connectivity gaps in South Tyneside. However, to fully achieve digital inclusion, it is essential that this investment prioritises areas most in need, ensuring that all residents, regardless of location, have access to reliable, high-speed digital connectivity.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Call on the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology to prioritize South Tyneside in the distribution of digital infrastructure investments, detailing how enhanced connectivity would directly benefit our community by improving access to jobs, health resources, and social support for all residents. South Tyneside Council 28 November 2024
2. Develop and implement targeted strategies to increase awareness of and access to digital engagement programs provided by the Council and partner organizations, ensuring that all residents are equipped to thrive in a digitally connected world.

Signed

Councillors: Carter (proposer)
Lamonte (seconder)
Clare
Smith
S Dean

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lamonte.

Councillor Davies moved an amendment to the motion, with changes in bold below:

This Council Notes:

This Council recognises the vital role of digital inclusion in promoting equal access to opportunities, particularly in areas such as South Tyneside, where employment rates are below the national average. Reliable digital connectivity empowers our residents to access essential services, secure employment, and participate in the digital economy, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life within the borough.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) highlights the positive effects of hybrid working on worker well-being, showing that it reduces stress and enhances work-life balance.

For those facing barriers to traditional work environments, particularly individuals with disabilities or long-term health conditions, digital connectivity offers a critical lifeline to economic and social participation. Such findings underscore the importance of stable and accessible digital infrastructure for a healthy, inclusive, and modern workplace.

Barriers to digital inclusion also include poverty, due to the cost of hardware, software and broadband services, lack of skills including basic literacy and numeracy, and speaking and writing skills for some people with English not as their first language.

The UK Government has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving gigabit broadband coverage for nearly all UK premises by 2030, with an interim target of 85% by 2025. This ambitious goal reflects the Government's recognition of digital infrastructure as a foundation for economic growth and social equality across all communities, including ours here in South Tyneside.

In our borough, **South Tyneside has made progress, with 98% of households properties currently capable of accessing have access to Superfast broadband (up to 30 Mbps), 86% have access to capable of accessing Ultrafast broadband (between 100 and 300 Mbps), and only 15% have access to capable of accessing Full Fibre broadband, which provides gigabit capable speeds (1,000 Mbps or more). Additionally, However, 509 households properties are without access to any form of reliable broadband, leaving these residents disconnected from essential digital resources and support.**

~~The Government's Project Gigabit, a £5 billion programme targeting digital 'hotspots' and underserved regions, represents an opportunity to address these gaps in South Tyneside. However, to fully achieve digital inclusion, it is essential that this investment prioritises areas most in need, ensuring that all residents, regardless of location, have access to reliable, high-speed digital connectivity.~~

Community broadband providers and cooperatives offer an effective way to close connectivity gaps. These locally driven initiatives have successfully delivered cost-effective and inclusive broadband in underserved areas across the UK.²

Addressing digital exclusion also supports national sustainability goals by reducing travel, promoting remote access to services, and encouraging low-carbon living, which is essential given this Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency. Local leadership is essential to ensure these benefits are felt by all residents in South Tyneside.

This Council Resolves To:

Convene a summit, with the participation of officers, broadband providers, community organisations, businesses, schools, members and local residents to identify barriers to digital inclusion in South Tyneside and develop a coordinated action plan to address barriers, including affordability, accessibility, and digital skills gaps.

~~Calls on~~ **Following the summit write to** the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology to prioritize South Tyneside in the distribution of digital infrastructure **inclusion** investments, detailing how enhanced connectivity would directly benefit our community by improving access to jobs, health resources, and social support for all residents.

Work with community broadband providers, cooperatives, and other local partners to develop and implement targeted strategies to increase awareness of and access to digital engagement programs provided by the Council and partner organizations, ensuring that all residents are equipped to thrive in a digitally connected world.

Support initiatives to expand broadband access in South Tyneside, particularly for hard-to-reach areas, while working within national frameworks.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Yare.

There was a dissenting voice, therefore a show of hands vote was taken on the amendment. The votes were cast as follows:

For: 11

Against: 27

The amendment was not agreed, and the original motion remained the substantive motion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

ANNEX 1 Does not form part of the Minutes of the Meeting.

**QUESTIONS ARISING WITHIN THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 28
November 2024**

Item 7 - School Attendance Regulations and Statutory Guidance 2024

Councillor Robertson referred to paragraph 16 of the report which stated that the income from fines were spent to improve good attendance and to work with families and schools to ensure this happened. He stated that in 23/24 the income from fixed penalty notices was £110,000, he requested a written explanation of how the funds from the fines were spent. Councillor McHugh stated this could be provided and advised that some of the funding was used to employ a team who would work with and support children.

In addition, when schools refer unauthorised absences to the Council in order to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, both parents are fined regardless of whether both were aware or allowed an unauthorised absence and regardless of their marital status. The report noted that issuing a fine may be unfair on one parent who had no knowledge or authority over this. He asked how many parents the Council had taken legal action against with regard to these penalties, how many had been taken to court, what was the result in court and had the Council sent any bailiffs after families following this.

Response:

In respect of the income earned from penalty notices. The statutory start date for "Working Together To Improve School attendance was 19th August 2024. It clearly states that any monies obtained through penalty notices must be spent on supporting young people to improve school attendance. Currently as there is a disparity between our staffing costs and the budget set by the LA then a proportion of this money is to fund the team. Any additional monies must be spent on attendance projects and if there is additional money left then it has to be returned to the Secretary of State,

In relation to the second question it should be noted that in education law there is a different definition of parental responsibility. For the purposes of education law, the Department for Education (DfE) considers a 'parent' to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person – this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, a guardian or other relative

- any person who, although they are not a biological parent and do not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person.

In South Tyneside the Head Teacher has the decision to authorise or unauthorised requests for leave during term time. They will consider these applications on a case by case basis and carefully consider, in cases where biological parents are separated, the most appropriate parent to issue the penalty notice to. There is no guidance to schools that both parents must receive Penalty Notices. Working Together to Improve School attendance makes it clear that only the parent that took the child on holiday should receive the penalty notice, however one parent may have another partner or person in the house who also has responsibility for the child and in those cases consideration should be made around the appropriateness of issuing one penalty notice to each person in the home.

In the academic year 23/24 there were 329 parents where court action was taken. The fines vary on a case-by-case basis depending on a number of factors that include.

- Non completion of court paperwork by parent.
- Mitigating circumstances.
- Ability to pay (means tested)
- Parent opting to full court hearing.

I am unable to comment on the use of bailiffs as any bailiff action would be taken through the Magistrates Court and not the Local Authority.

Item 9 – Sustainable South Tyneside Annual Update 2024

Councillor Francis referred to the carbon emission position. He was pleased that the first interim target was achieved in April 2023 with a reduction from the baseline of 5,170 tonnes, a 30% reduction. He was disappointed that since then the operational emissions had not continued to improve and had increased from 11,970 tonnes in 2022/23 to 12,211 tonnes in 2023/34. An increase of 241 tonnes. He noted that he had submitted a Motion in July 2024 - Motion on a Local Approach to Delivering Net Zero which had asked for important steps to move forward to improve emissions and that at that meeting an amendment to that motion was agreed which changed the nature of the motion. He asked what had gone wrong and what was now in place to ensure the Council reduce emissions this year and make up for lost ground. In addition, he asked whether the Councillors who voted against the motion know that the figures had gone in wrong direction when they voted against the request for the very funding that is now needed. Councillor Ford agreed and questioned whether the Council was spending the money in the correct way to target these issues and suggested a cross-party task and finish group to look into what had gone wrong and what should be done to put it right.

Response:

- While the Council had been focussing on electrifying its heating through energy schemes, the National Grid became more carbon intensive and therefore negatively impacted on the carbon reporting data. In addition,

some of the Council buildings have seen increases in electricity consumption.

- A heat decarbonisation plan is being developed for the top 20 gas consuming STC buildings, which account for 50% of the council's overall gas usage. This plan will provide a roadmap for the decarbonisation of these buildings and help unlock funding and reduce emissions.
- As part of the heat decarbonisation plan, behavioural interventions will be recommended for each of the top 20 gas consuming buildings as well as improvements that could be made to the Building Energy Management System to ensure these buildings are running at peak efficiency.
- A Cross Party Members Group has been set up for the end January 2025 to discuss the next steps to achieving our net zero ambitions.
- The full council meeting took place on the 25th of July 2024. At this time the carbon reporting 2023/24 had not been finalised and therefore this information was not available to Elected Members voting on the motion.