



South Tyneside Council

Report regarding Motions received by Borough Council during 2025/2026

This document has been classified as: **Not
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(Monitoring Officer)
Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In
Committee – 3 June 2026

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In Committee

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Cllr Susan Sybenga – Deputy Leader of the Council, Lead Member, Governance, Finance and Resources

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Subject: To consider a report regarding Motions received by Borough Council during 2025/2026

Date: 3 June 2026

Wards affected: All

Council ambitions: Financially Secure, Part of Strong Communities and Targeting support to make things fairer

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

- No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report:
N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: N/A

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information regarding Motions presented at Council for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

Background Information

2. Following a recommendation from Constitution Committee, and at the Annual Meeting of Borough Council on 16 May 2023, it was agreed that each year at their first meeting of the new municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-In Committee would receive and consider a report from the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) on Motions received by Borough Council in the previous municipal year.
3. Consequently, the terms of reference of Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call in Committee was extended to include this additional responsibility, at Part B Article 8.6.1(h))

To receive and consider a report from the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs on valid Motions submitted and received by Full Council in the previous municipal year to assess action and progress (where appropriate) together with an update against any resolutions and actions agreed by Council.

4. Council Procedure Rule 10.4 was also added to provide for this and has been embedded within the Constitution since.
5. A Motion is a request made by a councillor for an issue to be discussed at a meeting of Borough Council and for a decision – often referred to as a resolution - to be made. Motions are proposed by one councillor and seconded by another and must be supported at least five elected members in total before they can be considered by Borough Council. Motions enable the Council to adopt a course of action, to do some act, or to document an approach or attitude or position. Motions are also an opportunity for councillors to debate and discuss important issues that may not otherwise come through to Council.
6. The Council's procedure rule relating to Council Motions on Notice are set out in Council Procedure Rule 10 and are copied below for ease of reference:

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

10.1 Notice

Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Rule 11, written notice of every motion, signed by five Elected Members, must be delivered to the Chief Executive or Monitoring Officer no later than midday ten (10) working

days before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting). The notice may also be given by electronic mail. Where an Elected Member wishes to give notice of motion by way of electronic mail the notice must include the names of all five Elected Members. If the notice is provided by electronic mail the Proposer must copy into the notice email the other four Elected Members who support motion with wording confirming that all those Members copied in have signed the motion. The motion will be considered valid by the Chief Executive or Monitoring Officer unless a Member copied into the notice email objects otherwise within a reasonable period. Notice of motion cannot be submitted by Elected Members for the next upcoming meeting of Borough Council earlier than 00.01am on the working day immediately after the preceding ordinary meeting of Borough Council. The Monitoring Officer will date the motion, number it in the order in which it is received and enter it in a book which every Elected Member can inspect. A copy will be sent to the Leader of each political group on the Council.

10.2 Motion set out in agenda

10.2.1 In the summons for every meeting, the Chief Executive will set out all motions which we have received notice for in the order we received them once confirmed valid, unless when the Councillor gave the notice, they said, in writing, that they plan to move it at some later meeting, or they have since withdrawn the motion in writing.

10.2.2 A maximum of four (4) motions only will be considered at any one meeting. Of these four (4) motions and based upon the current political balance of the Council – the main Group will be allocated two (2) motions, and each of the opposition groups (of which there are currently two (2) opposition groups) will be allocated one (1) motion each. If a motion were submitted after 4 motions had been received, Members would be advised. The motion would need to be re-submitted in accordance with Rule 10 for the next ordinary meeting of Full Council after the meeting and would not automatically roll forward.

10.2.3 If a motion were lost due to the guillotine falling at a previous meeting, the motion would need to be re-submitted for the next ordinary meeting of Full Council in accordance with Rule 10 and would not automatically be added to the Agenda.

10.3 Scope

10.3.1 Every motion must be relevant to some matter over which the Council has responsibility, powers or duties, or which affects the borough of South Tyneside and must not be an issue which is currently under investigation, consideration or review by the Cabinet or any Council Committee or Sub-Committee. If a motion set out in the summons is not moved (either by the Councillor who gave notice or by another Councillor on their behalf), it will be treat as though it has been withdrawn and it will not be moved without fresh notice, unless the Mayor gives permission for it to be deferred to a future meeting.

10.3.2 Every motion considered under this Rule 10 must be formally proposed and seconded.

10.3.3 If notice is given of any motion which the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer feels:

- is out of order, illegal, defamatory, irregular or improper, vexatious or frivolous.*
- undermines the purposes of this Constitution or is capable of prejudicing other established constitutional processes.*
- has the potential to undermine the purpose and intent of the Constitution.*
- would have the effect of the Council exercising an executive function within current Budget & Policy Framework.*
- refers to applications for or objections to planning permission or any licence, notice or order issued, served or made by the Council.*
- relates to individual staffing matters or the personal information of Members or Officers*

he or she will advise the Mayor who will decide whether to accept the motion and place it on the agenda or to reject the motion.

Any motion which would result in a material increase in the Council's expenditure, or reduction in its income or change to the Council's budget or policy framework, must propose that the issue is referred to Cabinet who will consider the matter within a reasonable period and make such a recommendation to Council as they see fit.

Any motion which would result in a material change to the Council's Procedure Rules and Constitution arrangements must propose that the issue is referred to Constitution Committee who will within a reasonable period consider the matter and make such a recommendation to Council within as they see fit.

10.3.4 If the Mayor decides not to accept the motion, the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer will notify the Elected Members concerned as soon as possible giving reasons for the rejection. Where time permits, the Members concerned may submit a subsequent amended motion that will be considered afresh. The time for submitting motions will not be extended and so Members are encouraged to submit their motions in good time. Full responsibility for submitting an amended motion lies with the Elected Members concerned and cannot be undertaken by officers on their behalf.

10.3.5 Any decisions of Full Council arising from a motion must comply with the principles of decision making (set out in Article 16 – Decision Making). Where the Mayor, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer or Head of Legal and Governance, considers that the motion cannot comply with the principles of decision making, then the motion will stand referred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. This will enable information to be provided to ensure that any subsequent decision does comply with the principles of decision making.

10.3.6 Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no one can propose the same or a similar motion or amendment for a twelve (12) month period. The Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer will advise the Mayor as to similarity and the Mayor will make the final decision. This will not be open to debate.

10.3.7 It is for the Proposer of a motion to take reasonable efforts to satisfy themselves that their motion is within scope prior to giving notice. This may include discussion with the relevant Lead Member or cognisance of the work programme of any relevant Council Committee, including the Council's Scrutiny framework. A short summary of the reasonable efforts taken should be included when notice of motion is made.

10.4 Report on Motions

A report will be submitted to the first ordinary meeting of the new municipal year of Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-in Committee detailing all valid motions submitted over the course of the previous municipal year with an update against any resolutions and actions agreed by Council.

7. There are several Motions that can be moved without notice, which are set out in Council Procedure Rule 11, but they are not the subject of this Report. Motions that can be moved without notice include matters such as in relation to the accuracy of the minutes (Council Procedure Rule 11.1.2) and to change the order of business in the agenda (Council Procedure Rule 11.1.3).
8. Members of Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In Committee will note that a maximum four (4) motions that can be considered at any one ordinary meeting of Borough Council.

9. Valid Motions submitted during 2025/2026

10. The table below shows all valid Motions submitted during 2025/2026.

11. The table below also provides an update against the resolution made at Borough Council in respect of each valid Motion that was carried i.e. agreed / supported and therefore adopted at the meeting of Borough Council.

12. All motions that contained a specific task have since been complete. Any Motions which have become Council procedure or policy since resolution will also be noted in the update.

13. All relevant correspondence relating to motion, including letters sent and received, can be found in full in the Motion Book which is available in the Fitzpatrick Room.

Council Meeting	Motion
Minutes from 24 July 2025 (Appendix 1)	Motion 1 – Workers Rights Proposer Cllr Clare/ Seconder Cllr K Maxwell The Motion was CARRIED The Motion requested the council resolves to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, (at the time) Angela Raynor MP on behalf of the council, outlining just how this new policy will benefit working people in our communities and to request that these measures are implemented quickly and fully. The Letter from the Cllr Foreman, Lead Member for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services to the Deputy MP, Rt Hon David Lammy MP dated 14 October can be seen at Appendix 2. No response was received to this letter. Motion 2 – WASPI Women Proposer Cllr Kennedy / Seconder Cllr Owens-Palmer <u>Amendment 1 to Motion 2</u> – An amendment to the Motion was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Berkley. The amended motion became the substantive motion. The substantive motion was CARRIED • The Leader of the Council to write to local Members of Parliament (South Shields and Jarrow), and to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions MP Liz Kendall; to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women in the communities of South Tyneside and to seek: 1. Proposals for a compensation scheme, in line with the PHSO'S report, to be urgently brought forward by the DWP.

	2. Requesting an urgent debate and vote, in Government time in the House of Commons, on delivering compensation to affected women. • To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Sir Keir Starmer outlining the Council's position and calling for swift necessary action to resolve this situation. The letters are included at the end of the report: • Appendix 3 – Letter to Emma Lewell MP • Appendix 4 - Letter to Kate Osborne MP • Appendix 5 – Letter to the Prime Minister • Appendix 6 – Letter to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions A response was received from MP Emma-Lewell. A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix 7. A response was received from Torsten Bell MP, Minister for Pensions. A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix 8. Motion 3 – Social Housing Proposer Cllr Carter / Seconder Cllr Porthouse The Motion was CARRIED The council resolved to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Minister for Housing and Planning, to outline how funding for social housing will benefit communities like South Tyneside and emphasise support for social housing provisions. Motion 4 – Bring Council in Line with COP15 Proposer Cllr Gynn / Seconder Cllr R Taylor Motion was CARRIED Following the motion being carried the Service Lead for Climate & Nature responded and can be at Appendix 9.
23 October 2025 (Appendix 10)	Motion 1 – Calls to re-open South Shields Driving Test Centre

	Proposer Cllr S Dean / Seconder Cllr Kilgour The motion was CARRIED This Council therefore resolved to: • Instruct the Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council to write to Chief Executive of DVSA, supporting the call to re-open South Shields DTC. • Instruct the Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council to write to Minister for Future of Roads, supporting the call to re-open South Shields DTC. • Instruct the Chief Executive of South Tyneside Council to write to Secretary of State for Transport, supporting the call to re-open South Shields DTC. • Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Kim McGuinness, North East Mayor to support the efforts of campaigners seeking to the re-opening of South Shields DTC and to ask that Mayor McGuinness writes to Secretary of State for Transport, Minister for Future of Roads and to the Chief Executive of DVSA, seeking the re-opening of South Shields DTC. Letter included at Appendix 11. Motion 2 - Motion regarding Paper Smart South Tyneside Proposer Cllr R Taylor / Seconder Cllr Davies. <u>Amendment 1 to Motion 2</u> – An amendment to the Motion was proposed by Cllr Berkley and seconded by Cllr Gibson. The amended motion became the substantive motion. The substantive motion was CARRIED Update following a motion agreed at Full Council in October 2025, South Tyneside Council will be transitioning to recycled paper stock for general use. This change aligns with our ongoing commitment to sustainability and follows previous steps taken earlier this year:
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	• In June 2025, the inners of the printed all-household residents newsletter moved to recycled stock. • In July 2025, Council letterhead paper and compliment slips were transitioned to recycled stock. • The transition to recycled paper has been communicated to staff and elected members through a multi-channel approach, including Member communications, staff briefings, posts on Viva Engage, digital screens across council buildings and targeted messaging through posters in office locations. This approach aimed to raise awareness and encourage positive behaviour change in day-to-day practices. The implementation of this latest change will take place gradually, as we work through existing stocks of non-recycled paper. We appreciate your support and understanding in why there will be a mixed economy of paper used as we make this environmentally responsible shift. We've also reached out separately to the Education and Standards Team to advise schools of our direction of travel and ask them to consider a similar approach. Motion 3 – Higher Education Crisis Proposer Cllr Carter / Seconder Cllr Berkley Amendment proposed by Cllr Francis & seconded Cllr Davies. Amendment not agreed (13 in favour, 31 against). Original altered motion unanimously agreed. As a result of this motion the Leader was asked to write to the Secretary of State for Education and to outline the impacts on communities like South Tyneside, and highlight the Council's concerns regarding the funding crisis and the need for government intervention The Leader wrote to the Secretary of State for Education and the Vice Chancellors of Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland & Teesside to outline the concerns of South Tyneside Council around
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	the impact of redundancies and reduced teaching and research capacity on staff and students, and how this impacts South Tyneside residents and young people. A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix 12. Response received from University of Sunderland, Sir David Bell, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive can be seen at Appendix 13.
15 January 2026 (Appendix 14)	Motion 1 – Tackling Youth Employment in South Tyneside Proposer Cllr Berkley / Seconder Cllr McHugh Motion 1 was amended to include a third resolution: 3. To ensure that the correspondence between the Leader of the Council and any response from the Minister is included in future Borough Council papers. Amended Motion was AGREED. The Leader of South Tyneside Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Copy of letter is available at Appendix 15. No response has been received to date. Motion 2 – Improving Men’s Health Outcomes in South Tyneside Proposer Cllr Stonehouse / Seconder Cllr Francis The Motion was CARRIED The Leader wrote to Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP and a copy of the letter is available at Appendix 16. No response received to date

Financial and Resources

Implications

14. There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report and there are no additional financial implications required to implement the recommendations. This is an information report only.
15. There are of course resource implications with regards to some of the Motions themselves that will have been considered during 2025/2026. If a Motion would have the effect of the Council exercising an executive function out with the current Budget & Policy Framework, the Mayor may ultimately reject a Motion. Any motion which would result in a material increase in the Council's expenditure, or reduction in its income or change to the Council's budget or policy framework, must propose that the issue is referred to Cabinet who will consider the matter within a reasonable period and make such a recommendation to Council as they see fit.
16. There is also a significant resource pressure in terms of assessing and progressing motions in advance of Borough Council, and in terms of coordinating Motions across the relevant Directorates for action after a Motion has been carried.

Legal and Governance

17. The Council's Constitution sets out in Council Procedure Rule 10 the process for Motions on Notice. In the summons for every meeting of Borough Council (except Annual Council and Budget Council), the Chief Executive will set out all motions which we have received notice for in the order we received them once confirmed valid, unless when the Councillor gave the notice, they said, in writing, that they planned to move it at some later meeting, or they have since withdrawn the motion in writing.
18. Motions are part of our democratic process and serve as a useful mechanism for Members to propose and debate substantive issues for consideration including Council action. Motions enable the council to adopt a particular course of action, to do some act, or to document a specific approach or attitude.

Risk

19. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. Whilst it is the democratic right of Elected Members to table motions, this should be done with the intention to create a robust and forward-thinking Council. Care must be taken to ensure that Motions are used as an

opportunity for elected members to debate and discuss important and meaningful issues only.

Equality and Diversity and Community

20. There are no significant equality, diversity, community, and integration implications arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. Any Elected Member, providing they have the support of four other Elected Members, and providing the Motion is deemed valid, can submit a Motion on Notice.
21. Under equality legislation the Council has a legal duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality in relation to race, disability gender (including gender reassignment), age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The Council has also agreed to consider our Care Experienced residents carefully to ensure there is no impact on them by decisions made. The recommendations in this report have no significant impact on any of the above groups. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Environmental and Sustainability

22. The decisions recommended in this report do not give rise to any environmental or sustainability implications. It is of course important that committee membership is stable and experienced so that committee business can be maintained and functions well. Committee membership refreshment can bring to the Committee new talent and diverse perspectives, but continuity of membership can help build trust and more efficient ways of working.

Council Ambitions, Policies, Strategies and Plans

23. This report aligns entirely with the Council's Vision and Values demonstrating alignment to our agreed 'PROUD Values' that define what we stand for as an organisation and the things that are most important in terms of how we work and act in a way that 'PROUD' – demonstrating particularly that we are Open and Honest – key aspects of our agreed values and behaviours.
24. Many of the Motions appear to be guided by our five Ambitions with many of the Motions seeking to secure funding to ensure our residents will be financially secure (Financially Secure), seeking to ensure our residents have the best start in life and be able to live and age well (Healthy and Well).

Consultation and Engagement

25. The actions and outcomes of Motions carried by Borough Council have always been available to Elected Members via the Motions Book in the Fitzpatrick Room, as the Council recognises the importance of promoting transparency about the Council's decisions.

Recommendations

26. Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In Committee is recommended to note the updates on all valid motions for 2025/2026 and to consider any appropriate comments.

Reasons for Recommendations

27. To ensure Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In Committee receive and consider appropriate information on valid Motions submitted and received by Borough Council in the previous municipal year so that they may assess action and progress (where appropriate) together with an update against any resolutions and actions agreed by Borough Council..

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Minutes of Borough Council 24 July 2025
- Appendix 2: Letter from the Lead Member of Governance, Finance and Corporate Affairs to the Deputy Prime Minister (Motion 1, Worker's Rights)
- Appendix 3: Letter from the Leader of the Council to Emma Lewell MP (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 4: Letter from the Leader of the Council to Kate Osborne MP (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 5: Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Prime Minister (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 6: Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 7: Response from Emma Lewell MP (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 8: Response from Torsten Bell MP, Minister for Pensions (Motion 2, WASPI)
- Appendix 9: Update from the Service Lead for Climate & Nature (Motion 4, Bringing the Council in line with COP)
- Appendix 10: Minutes of Borough Council 23 October 2025
- Appendix 11: Letter from the Chief Executive regarding the re-opening of the South Shields Driving Test Centre (Motion 1, Driving Test Centre)
- Appendix 12: Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Education (Motion 3, Higher Education Crisis)
- Appendix 13: Response from University of Sunderland Vice Chancellor (Motion 3, Higher Education Crisis)

Appendix 14: Minutes of Borough Council 15 January 2026

Appendix 15: Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Motion 1, Tackling Youth Unemployment in South Tyneside)

Appendix 16: Letter from the Leader of the Council to the Secretary of State for Health (Motion 2, Improving Men's Health Outcomes in South Tyneside)

Report regarding Motions received by Borough Council during 2025/2026

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
Council Minutes	Borough Council – Minutes	Democratic Services