

15:11 15 minutes, 11

Thank you. Please be seated.

15:34 15 minutes, 34

to see.

15:39 15 minutes, 39

Welcome to this meeting of the Bur Council.

15:43 15 minutes, 43

This meeting is being recorded live and streamed.

15:53 15 minutes, 53

Welcome to those members of the public in the public gallery and those watching from home.

15:59 15 minutes, 59

If any member of the public or press would like to record proceedings themselves, please do so from the public

16:06 16 minutes, 6

gallery without interfering with the business of today's meeting.

16:12 16 minutes, 12

If the fire alarm sounds, can those sitting in the public gallery exit through the doors behind them? And those sitting in the council chamber, leave

16:20 16 minutes, 20

the room behind the doors behind me, make your way to the front of the town hall. To limit disturbances, please

16:27 16 minutes, 27

ensure mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off or are on silent during the meeting. Please

16:35 16 minutes, 35

also keep movement in and out of the chamber to a minimum.

16:40 16 minutes, 40

Any member who wishes to speak on any of the agenda items should use the microphones available. And if you do, don't forget to switch them off

16:48 16 minutes, 48

afterwards because it interferes with other microphones.

16:52 16 minutes, 52

Full council today will deal only with business that is set out on the summons.

16:58 16 minutes, 58

I received apologies from councilors Barklay, Kain, Haywood, Murray, and Udin. Are any members aware of any further apologies?

17:10 17 minutes, 10

Thank you.

17:17 17 minutes, 17

Right. The first item of business is declarations of interest. Does any member wish to make declaration before we move on to the next item of business?

17:29 17 minutes, 29

No.

17:31 17 minutes, 31

Colleagues are reminded that if you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item which prevents you from

17:38 17 minutes, 38

participating in the debate and any vote, you will need to leave the chamber during that item.

17:48 17 minutes, 48

The next item of business is the minutes of Borough Council held on the 19th of May 26. Are they accepted as a correct record?

18:00 18 minutes, 00 Is that yes? Thank you.

18:13 18 minutes, 13

I'll just uh sign the minutes off. There we go. Thank you.

18:24 18 minutes, 24

The next item of business is May's announcements and communications.

18:29 18 minutes, 29

Members are reminded that speeches on motions are subject to the time limits contained within the council procedure

18:36 18 minutes, 36

rules and should be kept within those limits.

18:41 18 minutes, 41

Please speak clearly and directly into the microphone and be mindful of those attending the meeting who may have

18:48 18 minutes, 48

hearing difficulties such as me. So I'd like you all to shout up so I can hear what you're saying if that's all right.

18:58 18 minutes, 58

Members raising a point of order should where possible identify the relevant constitutional or legal provision

19:08 19 minutes, 08

on which it is based. I will seek procedural advice as necessary before ruling on the matter.

Members are

19:16 19 minutes, 16

reminded not to interrupt speakers except in accordance with the council procedure rules and at the invitation of myself. Thank you colleagues.

19:31 19 minutes, 31

Item four. Everybody got item four.

19:38 19 minutes, 38

The next item of business is to consider a report of the director of place strategy on the local plan

19:4819 minutes, 48

regarding adoption of the South Tinside local plan. I will ask councilor David Royal, lead member economic growth

19:5819 minutes, 58

regeneration and investment to present this report. Councilor Royal.

20:0520 minutes, 5

Thank you Mr. Mayor.

20:1220 minutes, 12

So whilst I appreciate that the local plan is a sensitive matter, I do want to start by reminding everyone that this

20:1920 minutes, 19

borough has one of the oldest local plans in the country. It's 19 years old.

20:2820 minutes, 28

I'll have to crouch. Sorry to be near the microphone. Um, whilst I appreciate the local plan is a sensitive matter, I do want to start by

20:3720 minutes, 37

reminding everyone that this borough has one of the oldest local plans in the country. It's 19 years old and is completely out of date. And it's very

20:4620 minutes, 46

clear to me that difficult decisions haven't been made when they needed to be.

20:5120 minutes, 51

Um there'll always be opposition to change and to new development, but what we have before us now is a plan that's been independently examined over the

21:0021 minuteslast year by an independent planning inspector. Uh this also included four weeks hearing sessions uh where um he was able to hear from anyone with an

21:0821 minutes, 8

interest in the future of the borough including the public. And having completed his examination, the inspector

21:1521 minutes, 15

has found that the subject uh sorry, subject to recommended modifications, the plan is sound.

21:2321 minutes, 23

The plan has met all the tests it's required to meet.

21:2821 minutes, 28

So given that, how can we reasonably not adopt a plan that's been found to be sound?

21:3721 minutes, 37

Excuse me.

21:3921 minutes, 39

Members of the public are not allowed to speak and please don't interrupt. This is very important. If you do it again, I'll ask you to leave.

21:49 21 minutes, 49

Carry on. Council, I just go back a little bit before I was interrupted. Sorry.

21:54 21 minutes, 54

Um the the the plan has met all the tests it's required to meet. How can we reasonably not adopt a plan that's been

22:01 22 minutes, 1 second found to be sound? Uh there's no reasonable grounds not to adopt the plan in these circumstances.

22:07 22 minutes, 7

Uh we will always hear understandably from those who are opposed to development but we must balance this against the uh against the residents of the borough who don't yet have a voice.

22:19 22 minutes, 19

Our children, our grandchildren, that's actually who we're planning for now, their future and ensuring we have homes

22:26 22 minutes, 26

they can live in and access to employment opportunities.

22:30 22 minutes, 30

That's why this plan matters and why and and we have a duty to plan for the future of the borough and all of its residents.

22:38 22 minutes, 38

Uh we also have to ensure that future generations can afford to live in their own area if they choose to. They can afford to buy housing. They can afford

22:46 22 minutes, 46

to live here and work here. Uh a housing shortage really um has a detrimental effect on that.

22:54 22 minutes, 54

The council's also invested significant time and money uh and resources in preparing this plan. Uh time and the

23:03 23 minutes, 3

money which will be wasted if this plan is not adopted.

23:07 23 minutes, 7

We can't in all good consciousness not adopt the plan.

23:11 23 minutes, 11

What if we don't adopt it? Well, we have a government that isn't afraid to intervene in the borough, whether that's in relation to decision-making on

23:19 23 minutes, 19

planning or in ensuring the plan was submitted for independent examination.

23:24 23 minutes, 24

Let's be clear, if we don't adopt the plan, it's highly likely that it will be imposed upon us anyway.

23:3423 minutes, 34

I have no doubt we risk further government intervention if we don't adopt the plan. And while some might say let them, what does that say for the

23:4123 minutes, 41

borough? What does that say about our ability to make difficult decisions? And there's significant risk if we have if they have to intervene further.

23:5323 minutes, 53

Housing and green belt matters always get the headlines because they're important. But I want to remind members that the local plan is much more about

24:0224 minutes, 2

is much more than that. It's more about housing. There's a lot more. The local plan contains a raft of policies which seek to ensure we support economic

24:1124 minutes, 11

growth by protecting our employment areas, supporting the the regeneration of our town centers, protecting our

24:1924 minutes, 19

green spaces and most valuable natural and historic environments.

24:2424 minutes, 24

These policies have been found sound and can help secure better development for the borough. For these reasons, members

24:3124 minutes, 31

are asked to endorse and support the recommendations set out in paragraph 91 of the report. Thank you.

24:4024 minutes, 40

Is that is that seconded? That's seconded. Thank you, Councilor Smith.

24:5024 minutes, 50

Do members have any questions or wish to speak to the report? Councilor Taylor.

25:0125 minutes, 1 secondThank you, Mr. Mayor. The local plan was voted down by this council on two separate occasions. Those of us who opposed it were later vindicated when

25:1025 minutes, 10

the independent plan inspector concluded that the plan was not sound and required numerous major changes before could even

25:1725 minutes, 17

be considered for adoption. Four counselors along with me spoke of the examination in public and engaged at every stage of the public consultation.

25:2725 minutes, 27

Communities stand to lose valuable community buildings as seen at Cheetah Reed. We will see valued open green spaces and mature trees and hedros lost forever too.

25:3825 minutes, 38

Existing plane pictures will also disappear. Despite the proposed 20 fenced off pictures of mitigation throughout Temple Memorial Park, the

25:4625 minutes, 46

inspector accepted the number of replacement pitches is far fewer than the number we have currently.

25:5325 minutes, 53

There remain serious concerns about increased flood risk, additional pressure on our inadequate sewage system, and the long-term impact on

26:0126 minutes, 1 secondlocal wildlife, partly through even more green belt loss.

26:0626 minutes, 6

Housing is needed in South Tinside, particularly social housing. Yet, there is no guarantee that any developments will provide the social homes our residents desperately need.

26:2026 minutes, 20

I'll have you clear. Is that clear? I won't stand for any more of it. I'll clear the lot of you if you keep

26:2826 minutes, 28

interrupting you. Lady, it's not that funny. Now, please be quiet or leave.

26:4326 minutes, 43

Please leave.

26:5926 minutes, 59

The lady may have caused everybody to go out. So,

27:1127 minutes, 11

sorry about that. Councelor Taylor, carry on.

27:1527 minutes, 15

This plan groups affordable homes with social housing. So, it's in the developer's discretion. For financial viability, developers cannot deliver

27:2327 minutes, 23

affordable housing, let alone social housing. We've already seen this at the South Tide College site where no affordable housing is being provided through this loophole.

27:3427 minutes, 34

The same college redevelopment is another example of decisions that deserve scrutiny. The cost to relocate the college has risen to around 104

27:4127 minutes, 41

million as of today with our financially stretched council contributing around 8 million from the public purse. While

27:4827 minutes, 48

overall costs continue to rise, so I should think what the final total will be. This appears to be linked to the previous administration's 365

27:5627 minutes, 56

regeneration project in the same spot which saw compulsory purchase orders and the demolition of buildings for cinema.

28:0328 minutes, 3

As councilors, we have a responsibility not simply to inherit previous decisions, but to question whether they remain the right decision today. I love

28:1228 minutes, 12

this buffer. I want to see a smaller volume of homes built, and I want to see businesses thrive. Central government is forcing 5,000 homes on us through an unwanted and unsustainable local plan.

28:2428 minutes, 24

Preparation of this local plan has reportedly cost South Tai Council almost 1 million pounds since 2022. money I'm

28:3228 minutes, 32

sure I would rather see spent on Stanley's.

28:3728 minutes, 37

I stand here tonight after giving countless hours to understanding this plan and fighting to save our town and firmly believe this has all

28:4528 minutes, 45

Sorry, Councilor Taylor, you've had your three minutes. You'll have to wind up now. Thank you.

28:4928 minutes, 49

Thank you. That I am and fighting to save our town and firmly believe this has all simply been an illusion of

28:5728 minutes, 57

democracy. No matter what, central government believe they will get their way. Thank you.

29:0329 minutes, 3

Thank you. Anyone else?

29:0729 minutes, 7

Mr. Mayor, can I raise a point of information first of all, please, if you don't mind. Um, and it isn't I'm I'm stretching this a little actually. Um,

29:1529 minutes, 15

because the resident that you ordered to leave was one of my res.

29:1829 minutes, 18

Sorry, Council Kilg. I'll have to take some advice.

29:2229 minutes, 22

I I just want to speak with you personally actually. That one of those that lady that you asked to leave was one of my residents.

30:0330 minutes, 3

When giving a point of information, councilor Gilgar, uh what is the point of information you were seeking to make?

30:1330 minutes, 13

Mr. Mayor um in relation to councilor Taylor's speech um she was um interrupted but she wasn't only

30:2030 minutes, 20

interrupted by the residents who feel very very passionately about this subject. You mentioned that at the beginning of the meeting and I'll be

30:2830 minutes, 28

really honest with you. I'm absolutely appalled that you could speak to one of my residents like that. I understand

30:3930 minutes, 39

can I can you all leave? Can I just finish?

30:4230 minutes, 42

If you don't be quiet, I'm not putting up with this.

30:4530 minutes, 45

Mr. Mayor, this is You might be appalled, but I'm also appalled by your resident interrupting the meeting and interrupting

30:5330 minutes, 53

for almost You have to go if you don't be quiet.

30:5730 minutes, 57

Wow, this is dreadful.

31:0031 minutesThis is my chamber and I'm I say, "What happens?

31:2931 minutes, 29

Okay. I don't consider that you've raised a point of information as defined in procedure rule 1213 and therefore I cannot let you proceed.

31:4231 minutes, 42

Okay, thank you. I will be speaking very quickly to try and get this in. This is from David Green, our lead member and the brother of the lady that was asked

31:5131 minutes, 51

to leave. Um, Southsh Council does need a local plan. It needs the right infrastructure. There are some positive policies, but a fatal flaw is the

31:5931 minutes, 59

inclusion of SP8. It removes 25% of Felgate Green Belt forever, removing the green belt buffer between Gates Head and

32:0632 minutes, 6

Sunderland. And it would see the end of West Felgate working farm farmed by the same family since n since 1875 where

32:1432 minutes, 14

there is a livery of 52 horses in their community. The working group have provided significant evidence to prove the fatal flaws. The plan relies on

32:2232 minutes, 22

section 106 compromise agreements with developers. Developers, as we've heard, may have cash flow problems.

32:2832 minutes, 28

Southshineside Council is considering forward funding infrastructure. This is basically an IOU of tens of millions of pounds. You may have been instructed by

32:37 32 minutes, 37

your whip to vote for this. Is this what the residents voted you in for? Would they want this? South China Seide Council have stated that no material

32:45 32 minutes, 45

average traffic volume changes since 2022. This is not the case. The figures have gone from 42,244

32:53 32 minutes, 53

in 2022 to 58,789 per day in June 2026. This is data that

33:00 33 minutes South Tinside Council purport not to have looked at. Identified critical infrastructure is totally inadequate.

33:07 33 minutes, 7

First being assessed as costing 40 million between hearing one and hearing two it was then 10 to 14 million profit

33:14 33 minutes, 14

before safety between 21st of January and 18th of February. the combined sewage overflow discharged constantly

33:22 33 minutes, 22

for 655 hours and 24 minutes into the river time. South China side council are complicit in the addition of new developments adding to this system. The

33:31 33 minutes, 31

infrastructure delivery in 2026 state that North Umbrean water had asked for funding to upgrade the howen storage or treatment plant. The an FYI revealed

33:39 33 minutes, 39

that they did not ask for it from offwot at primary places in schools. 328 primary places out of 358 estimated are from SP8. This is simply not achievable.

33:50 33 minutes, 50

And what are the proposed deletion of our Stanley nurseries going to do to that? Secondary places in Heban and Jarro, the three schools in this area

33:58 33 minutes, 58

have little or no capacity. However, South Tinside Council state that a combined pressure of 290 additional

34:05 34 minutes, 5

spaces are required of which 171 are for SP8 alone. I believe this is totally underestimated. SP8 only includes a

34:13 34 minutes, 13

planned primary school and funding for such other than through a council provision. This is totally inadequate and the amount of for the amount of

34:20 34 minutes, 20

housing proposed healthcare for 200,200 houses in this area is already deemed inadequate, severely underfunded and

34:27 34 minutes, 27

unachievable. In relation to SP8, almost all of the infrastructure is reliant on a gamble of 106 agreements. Whether it

34:3534 minutes, 35

is not or whether it will be honored and paid from the developers profit of 50 million pounds is debatable. The fact that we have no updated traffic

34:4234 minutes, 42

infrastructure statement of common ground with Gates Head also adds to my opinion that the plan remains unsound. I urge you to scrutinize all of the evidence.

34:5134 minutes, 51

Councilor Gilg, you've had your three minutes. Could you wind up please?

34:5434 minutes, 54

And vote as you wish. This is from this was written by my resident and I am their voice tonight. Thank you.

35:0335 minutes, 3

Anyone else?

35:0835 minutes, 8

Uh, I think councilor Blair had his hand up first.

35:1435 minutes, 14

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um, one of my biggest concerns about this local plan is the pressure to further development could place on South Tynid's wastewater

35:2335 minutes, 23

infrastructure. For years, residents, campaigners, and community groups have raised serious concerns about sewage pollution affecting our rivers and

35:3135 minutes, 31

coastline. These concerns are not theoretical.

35:3535 minutes, 35

Little Haven has received a poor bathing water classification. The precise contribution of each source source should not be overstated, but there are

35:4335 minutes, 43

serious concerns that pollution reach in Little Haven may come from the wider tne system, including sewage treatment works and combined sewage overflows

35:5135 minutes, 51

before being carried towards our coastline.

35:5435 minutes, 54

Separately, the inspector's report records long-standing problems with the wastewater network in the southeast of the burough, including uh regulatory

36:0336 minutes, 3

non-compliance and notable discharges of untreated effluent around Whitburn. The recent Nerdle spill has also shown how

36:1136 minutes, 11

vulnerable our river and coastline become once pollution enters the marine environment.

36:1736 minutes, 17

It is a separate issue, but it reinforces the same point.

36:2136 minutes, 21

Pollution can spread quickly and become extremely difficult to recover. South Tinside is proud of its waterways and coastline. They support local

36:2936 minutes, 29

businesses, attract visitors, and provide places where residents can enjoy the outdoors. We have a duty to protect them.

36:3836 minutes, 38

The local plan provides for more than 5,000 additional homes over the plan period. More homes mean greater demand on sewage and drainage infrastructure,

36:4636 minutes, 46

and the growth must be matched by investment. I acknowledge the strengthened wording in policy 10 requiring developments requiring

36:5336 minutes, 53

developers to show that adequate water treatment and disposal exists or will be available before homes are occupied. But this cannot become a box ticking exercise.

37:0437 minutes, 4

Where infrastructure is not ready, development should be properly phased and the necessary improvements secured before occupation. I recognize the

37:1237 minutes, 12

consequences of continuing without an up-to-date local plan and I do not take this decision lightly. However, I cannot support adopting a plan simply because we urgently need one.

37:2337 minutes, 23

At present, I do not believe residents have been given enough assurance that wastewater infrastructure will keep pace with development or that new pressures

37:3037 minutes, 30

will not add to existing environmental problems. For those reasons, although I support the principle of having an up-to-date local plan and recognize the

37:3937 minutes, 39

need for new and affordable homes, I will be voting against the plan before us tonight.

37:4537 minutes, 45

Councilor McQue.

37:5437 minutes, 54

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

37:5737 minutes, 57

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um, this local plan will shape Southside for many years to come. So, it's one of the most

38:0438 minutes, 4

important decisions we'll make as councilors. I recognize the significant amount of work that has gone into preparing the plan. However, I do not

38:1338 minutes, 13

believe it fully meets the needs of our residents.

38:1638 minutes, 16

South Tinside remains one of the most deprived burers in the in England. Many families are struggling with the cost of living while too many residents remain

38:2538 minutes, 25

on waiting lists for genuinely affordable homes, particularly social housing. Although the plan includes policies on affordable housing, it does

38:3438 minutes, 34

not give me sufficient confidence that the homes local people need most will actually be delivered.

38:4138 minutes, 41

De development should not simply be about meeting housing numbers. It should be about meeting housing need. If new homes are built but remain beyond the

38:5038 minutes, 50

reach of local people, then we will have missed an important opportunity.

38:5438 minutes, 54

At the same time, residents are being asked to accept the loss of green spaces, trees, hedgeros, and in some cases playing fields. These are

39:0339 minutes, 3

significant sacrifices. They should only be made where the public benefit is clear and substantial. I recognize that the planning inspector has concluded

39:1139 minutes, 11

that with the main modification the plan is sound and I respect their professional judgment. However, being found sound is not necessarily the same as being what's best for South Tinside.

39:2239 minutes, 22

That is a judgment which ultimately feels falls to us as elected members. I therefore want to say sustainable development which provides genuinely

39:3039 minutes, 30

affordable homes, protects nature and creates thriving communities. I do not believe this plan strikes that balance well enough. South Tinside deserves a

39:3939 minutes, 39

local plan which gives greater confidence that affordable and social housing will be delivered while protecting our valued green spaces

39:4739 minutes, 47

wherever possible. For those reasons, I can I cannot support the adoption of this local plan as it stands. Thank you.

39:5639 minutes, 56

Thank you, Councelor Ford.

40:0340 minutes, 3

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, um, as has been said, um, there is a lot that's, um, we we do need

40:1240 minutes, 12

a local plan. However, there's a lot that's that's wanting in this version of the local plan.

What we need now is a

40:1940 minutes, 19

fresh start with proper cooperation with all elected members on the new local plan that we've had to start. Anyway, we need to review all the brownfield sites

40:2840 minutes, 28

for both housing and employment land. We need to propose much higher housing densities in our town centers. As we've said before, there are council owned car

40:3640 minutes, 36

parks, for example, which could have blocks of apartments with five or six floors with car parking underneath.

40:4340 minutes, 43

There's a large amount of office space due to be built on the Hullburn Riverside site, which is surely not needed now given the amount of empty office space there is already in the

40:5140 minutes, 51

borough. The government has imposed arbitrarily high housing targets on councils, which we are challenging. And right across the country, councils and

40:5940 minutes, 59

communities are objecting to them. The new government under Andy Burnham are also promising to provide to deliver

41:0641 minutes, 6

more social housing to allow council make it easier for councils to build proper council homes. And given that the

41:1441 minutes, 14

evidence shows we need at least 361 affordable homes each year, that's what we must plan to do. We must not just

41:2241 minutes, 22

build new homes, but we must bring empty homes back into use. The government also promising to bring in regional strategic

41:2941 minutes, 29

planning which could bring some common sense planning across the northeast and stop the big house builders getting to build on green belt for maximum profit.

41:3841 minutes, 38

We have the chance now to reject a bad plan that would guarantee injustice and permanent damage to our communities and

41:4541 minutes, 45

our environment. We need to vote on the basis of the genuine concerns of our residents. The government may well impose this plan on us anyway, but I

41:5441 minutes, 54

cannot vote for it. We need to work instead on a plan that will meet the needs of our residents and make this a strong, vibrant, healthy community.

42:0742 minutes, 7

Council owns Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

42:1342 minutes, 13

This local plan is going to shape South Tinside for many, many years to come.

42:1742 minutes, 17

It's going to determine where homes are built, which green spaces are built upon, and which are protected, and what pressures placed on our roads, our

42:2542 minutes, 25

schools, health service, drainage, and public transport.

42:2942 minutes, 29

This plan was developed under the former Labor administration. Labor selected the strategy, they prepared the evidence,

42:3642 minutes, 36

and they proposed the allocations. And this chamber rejected it twice for good reason.

42:4342 minutes, 43

One thing I'd like to bring up today which is important is about the Westo site uh the the current college which is being built on by Miller Homes

42:5242 minutes, 52

currently. When the council put forward the planning for uh 260 houses as the main modification to the local plan they

43:0143 minutes, 1 secondmisled the inspector. They said planning permission was in place as of the 1st of April 2025. It wasn't. It did not get

43:0843 minutes, 8

put in place until the 30th of June 2025. So that is a lie.

43:1443 minutes, 14

This isn't a simple mistake or a misprint. It was deliberate.

43:2043 minutes, 20

But that as that's what the inspector was acting on, that should make it possible to have a deferment of this plan. That was requested yesterday by

43:2843 minutes, 28

one of my residents. And I'm disappointed that the monitoring officer did not see fit and did not see the public interest in deferring the decision to be made on the local plan tonight.

43:3843 minutes, 38

All of the counselors have been copied into a letter with that information and I do hope that it informs their decision on whether or not to vote this local plan down tonight.

43:4843 minutes, 48

Another big concern I have which has been outlined already by councilor Blair is that the inspector failed to complete the local plan inquiry process.

43:58 43 minutes, 58

It just wasn't completed. So how does that work? An action plan demanded by offwa of North Umbrean water was never produced. It was supposed to be

44:06 44 minutes, 6

produced by January and that was as part of the required compliance with the law.

44:11 44 minutes, 11

The inspector disregarded all evidence provided regarding wastewater infrastructure. Only last week dangerous levels of eoli were found in the

44:19 44 minutes, 19

seawater of off seaburn which can only have come from sewage.

44:23 44 minutes, 23

Anyone who saw that channel 4 film dirty business will be fearful of what's going to happen on our beach. How long is it going to be before one of our

44:32 44 minutes, 32

eight-year-old children dies? It's going to happen.

44:37 44 minutes, 37

Reform. What did you do with the mandate you got in May? You inherited a labor developed plan. Which communities did

44:45 44 minutes, 45

you bring into the room? What fresh engagement did you undertake?

44:49 44 minutes, 49

What what was challenged? Which disputed sites were challenged? What changes were sought? What alternatives? What changed as a result of all of you being in this

44:57 44 minutes, 57

room? The plan before us should just do more than reconciling a new administration to an old faded plan

45:05 45 minutes, 5

that's been rejected twice with the communities here expected to live with the consequences. A fresh mandate should have been brought and I intend to vote against this plan.

45:16 45 minutes, 16

Thank you.

45:20 45 minutes, 20

I realize that this is an emotive subject that we're talking about tonight and emotions are riding high, but I think democracy will be better served if

45:28 45 minutes, 28

we have some peace and quiet and calm and let the speakers speak without interruption. I think you might all

45:36 45 minutes, 36

agree with that. It would be a sensible thing to do. So, uh I hope you'll abide by that. Thank you.

45:4845 minutes, 48

One more. Councelor Herbit.

45:5045 minutes, 50

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Uh, when I looked at the local plan and the housing targets that was set, it was actually done on faulty or out outdated

45:5845 minutes, 58

information, the ONS projections for households that were required.

46:0346 minutes, 3

They used a very early one about 2014 instead of an updated one in 2018. When you use the updated ONS projections,

46:1146 minutes, 11

we're going to produce 2,000 more houses than we need according to those projections.

And when I looked at the all the neighboring local authorities,

46:1946 minutes, 19

they also all going to produce more houses than they need for their projected housing needs. It's going to aggregate to about 20,000 houses in the

46:2746 minutes, 27

northeast. Hopefully the combined authority will actually take the strategic look at where we build these houses in the northeast to match it up

46:3646 minutes, 36

with the existing infrastructure maximum use of brownfield sites and actually preserving the green belt where we we

46:4346 minutes, 43

can the green belt in in South Tide doesn't need to be built on.

46:5046 minutes, 50

We've been told that having a a local plan will pres pro protect us from speculative developers u trying to uh

46:5746 minutes, 57

build uh outside the local plan but or we've already seen gray belt development being approved in clean village where

47:0647 minutes, 6

green belt has turned into gray belt and was house planning position given for three luxury bungalows on the edge of

47:1347 minutes, 13

clean village now this gray belt will not cease when the new local plan comes in it still be there, still be available

47:2147 minutes, 21

to developers. And that's going to that's been happening in Wickburn around the Marson Primary School.

47:2947 minutes, 29

3% of houses in the north in South Time are vacant. Why would you have a local plan that doesn't look at the vacancy

47:3647 minutes, 36

levels within the area to say that it should be brought down? That's 2,000 plus houses. If they're half that level,

47:4347 minutes, 43

it'll be 1,000 houses brought back into use. So what we've got here is a local plan has found sound because it's judged

47:5047 minutes, 50

against an MPPPF that is defective. Now the plan inspector is bound by his duty to judge it against that MPPF but

48:0048 minutes it doesn't mean really mean actually a good plan for Southside and it isn't. So I can't vote for this plan in any conscience. Thank you very much.

48:1148 minutes, 11

Thank you councilor Herbert.

48:1548 minutes, 15

Anyone else wish to speak? No. Okay. So, councilor Royal, do you wish to reply to the debate?

48:2548 minutes, 25

Uh, yes. But does anyone mind if I stay seated as when I stand up, I can't reach the microphone? Um,

48:3348 minutes, 33

I've listened to all of the speakers and this is a very emotional and um very important topic that we're dealing with.

48:4348 minutes, 43

Uh, nobody wants to destroy an environment. Nobody wants to be building houses that we don't need. Nobody wants to build or do anything to our burough.

48:5548 minutes, 55

I'm a resident, too. I use the beach. I use the open spaces. Uh, nobody wants to lose that.

49:0249 minutes, 2

However, and a couple of speakers mentioned it tonight, we've got a plan that's so out of date, it's it's not fit for purpose.

49:1449 minutes, 14

Without a plan, without a plan, we risk, and it's a very real and high risk,

49:2249 minutes, 22

losing a lot of the control that we need to protect our area.

49:2749 minutes, 27

losing a lot of the control where uh a developer wants to build something somewhere and can go straight to just

49:3549 minutes, 35

bypass us and go above our head and that's a massive risk if we want to if we want to shape the

49:4249 minutes, 42

future of our burough if we want to plan it properly if we want to be in control

49:4949 minutes, 49

listen to residents put their views forward the majority you know all of the residents put their views forward would

49:5749 minutes, 57

consider ourselves as residents, we need a plan or we're simply going to lose control. And um I think one speaker

50:0650 minutes, 6

mentioned Marsden that's uh in the plan that's not included in the plan that site uh doesn't doesn't plan to build houses on the Marsden Primary School

50:1550 minutes, 15

site. Um it is very emotional. It's incredibly important. But if we want to have

50:2450 minutes, 24

control as a team of counselors, all of us, over what comes next for the burough and shape it in a positive way, we need to be able to influence what happens.

50:3450 minutes, 34

And without a plan, we don't stand a chance. We lose control. We have no say in um where things are built because we

50:4250 minutes, 42

can be bypassed consider you know a developer can go straight to government planning um put a planning application

50:4950 minutes, 49

in and we have no say in whether that's accepted or not. Zero. Now

50:5750 minutes, 57

we find ourselves in this place because difficult decisions have been avoided.

51:0251 minutes, 2

difficult decisions haven't been made and we are now under significant risk of

51:1051 minutes, 10

losing any any influence we've got. If we don't have a plan, if we don't adopt this plan today, we genuinely and honestly, and I'm

51:1951 minutes, 19

saying this as a counselor, yes, but also as a resident, somebody who lives here, somebody who has children here, hopefully some grandchildren. I'm saying

51:2651 minutes, 26

this because if we don't have a plan, we've got no chance of influencing in a positive way the future of our burough.

51:3451 minutes, 34

Thank you. Thank you, Councilor Royal.

51:4751 minutes, 47

Have a point of information, Mr. Mayor. Please. Is your point relative to the debate?

51:5851 minutes, 58

I'll allow it. Carry on.

52:0052 minutesThank you. So the point I wish to make is that and I won't say with respect because I do al always intend to speak with

52:0852 minutes, 8

respect that I'm hearing the same information that has literally been written down. I'd like to know councilor Royal, did you write that yourself?

52:1752 minutes, 17

Because it the statement prior to that.

52:1952 minutes, 19

What what I'd also like to know is you mention around we stand a risk. We stand more of a risk by getting rid of the

52:2752 minutes, 27

green belt. That's an inaccurate statement. Currently the green belt. Can I just tell you I speak from a point of

52:3552 minutes, 35

experience. I've been fighting with my residents against sorry consider that you've raised.

52:4452 minutes, 44

I served on planning for 10 years. I know what I'm talking about by saying it's not true.

52:5052 minutes, 50

Councilor Kilg, you'll have to you'll have you haven't raised point of information defined procedure rule 1213.

52:5752 minutes, 57

Therefore, cannot let you proceed.

53:0453 minutes, 4

Okay, colleagues, council is recommended to note the following.

53:1053 minutes, 10

The council is still under direction which requires consideration to be given to the local plan along with inspector's recommendations.

53:2253 minutes, 22

Is that noted? Yes.

53:3053 minutes, 30

Sorry, I didn't catch that. Yeah. Yeah.

53:3853 minutes, 38

He's just so councilor KGA the mayor's just asking the chamber to note it rather than

53:4653 minutes, 46

Yeah. So apologies I'll burn down as well.

53:5153 minutes, 51

The mayor the mayor's just asking it to be noted. It's not a you're not noting it. You want name vote on the name. Do

53:59 53 minutes, 59

you have the support of four at least four of the members? Okay.

54:05 54 minutes, 5

Okay. So members, I'll read out each of your names alphabetically and I would ask that you please indicate clearly

54:12 54 minutes, 12

using the microphone as to whether you note it or not. Okay.

54:21 54 minutes, 21

Councilor Bar Bell.

54:32 54 minutes, 32

Councilor Bell. Councilor Bell. Do you note it or not?

54:44 54 minutes, 44

Thank you. Councilor Blair, note it or not.

54:51 54 minutes, 51

Yes. Yes. Certainly, Hans. So, so the mayor the mayor has asked whether the council the mayor's pointed out the council is still under direction which requires

55:00 55 minutes consideration to be given to the local plan along with the inspector's recommendations. The question was is that noted?

55:09 55 minutes, 9

So, it's a yes or no. Pardon? So, that's what's happening now.

55:19 55 minutes, 19

So there's there's been a request for the named vote and that's what's happening now. So your name and it's

55:26 55 minutes, 26

just whether you note that or not. Thank you.

55:33 55 minutes, 33

It is up it is up to you councilor Blair. It is up to councilor Blair.

55:41 55 minutes, 41

Can I have a point of information? I'm so sorry. Is there going to be a vote where we choose whether or not to vote to adopt this local plan? Of course, there is. Yes.

55:49 55 minutes, 49

So, this is not noting this is not noting the plan and the recommendations. So, within Thank you.

55:56 55 minutes, 56

with if I can just have some order to explain. So, so it is just noting it within the

56:04 56 minutes, 4

report. There are eight recommendations in the report within your papers. The first two are just to note information.

56:12 56 minutes, 12

However, council Kilgawa has requested a named vote. She has at least four members supporting that and therefore

56:2056 minutes, 20

I'm doing that given the importance of this issue to the chamber. Councilor Brown.

56:3056 minutes, 30

Sorry, Councilor Brown. Not thank you. Ned. Councilor Clifton. Ned.

56:3756 minutes, 37

Thank you. Councilor Curry noted.

56:4056 minutes, 40

Thank you. Councilor Diamond noted.

56:4356 minutes, 43

Councilor Elsander noted.

56:4656 minutes, 46

Councilor Fioni noted.

56:4956 minutes, 49

Councilor Fenick noted.

56:5156 minutes, 51

Councilor Ford not noted.

56:5556 minutes, 55

Councilor Fox noted.

56:5756 minutes, 57

Councilor Herbert not noted.

57:0257 minutes, 2

Councilor Humphrey Councilor Jones noted. Councilor Kilgawa not n noted.

57:1257 minutes, 12

Councilor Leather not n noted. Councilor Ling.

57:1857 minutes, 18

Councilor Mackings noted.

57:2057 minutes, 20

Councilor Madison noted.

57:2457 minutes, 24

Councilor Mcuin not noted.

57:2857 minutes, 28

Councilor Medco noted.

57:3157 minutes, 31

Councilor Mau ordered.

57:3357 minutes, 33

Councilor McQue not noted. Councilor Newman, noted.

57:4057 minutes, 40

Councilor Oliver, not n noted.

57:4457 minutes, 44

Councilor Orton, noted.
57:4857 minutes, 48
Councilor Owens Palmer, not noted.
57:5157 minutes, 51
Councilor Perry, noted.
57:5357 minutes, 53
Councilor Pitik, noted.
57:5657 minutes, 56
Councilor Ramen, noted.
58:0058 minutesCouncilor Rice, noted.
58:0258 minutes, 2
Councilor Richardson, noted. Councilor Ross noted.
58:0858 minutes, 8
Councilor Royal noted.
58:1158 minutes, 11
Councilor A. Smith noted.
58:1358 minutes, 13
Councilor M. Smith noted.
58:1658 minutes, 16
Councilor S. Smith noted.
58:1958 minutes, 19
Councilor Ste noted.
58:2258 minutes, 22
Councilor Stonehouse not noted.
58:2658 minutes, 26
Councilor Sebens noted.
58:3058 minutes, 30
Councilor Taylor not noted. Councilor Thomas noted.
58:3658 minutes, 36
Councilor Tulie noted.
58:3958 minutes, 39
Councilor Turbell noted.
58:4258 minutes, 42
Councilor We noted.
58:4558 minutes, 45
Councilor Heidi Wildart noted.
58:5058 minutes, 50
Thank you members. Just give me a moment please.
1:00:141 hour, 14
Okay, the result of the vote is 36 noted and 11 not noted.
1:00:281 hour, 28

So point number two, this is a noted one as well. It's either noted or not noted

1:00:351 hour, 35

just to uh so everybody is certain of what we're doing.

1:00:401 hour, 40

Secondly, is the inspector's report noted?

1:00:461 hour, 46

Not noted. Do you have the support for members? Councilor Kgawa.

1:00:581 hour, 58

No, three. So you you Okay.

1:01:121 hour, 1 minute, 12

Okay. So members, we'll do the same again. This is just

1:01:191 hour, 1 minute, 19

noting that a name vote has been requested by council Kilgawa with the support of at least four members. So

1:01:261 hour, 1 minute, 26

therefore I will read out your names again in the same order and if I could ask you to indicate whether you note the inspector's report or not. Thank you.

1:01:411 hour, 1 minute, 41

Sorry Mr. May just whether this is right or wrong not just say um has anybody changed from the last vote to save time

1:01:491 hour, 1 minute, 49

on it all. You have to individually ask each person.

1:01:521 hour, 1 minute, 52

No can't do that. I'm sorry. We've got to do it go through the reader roll again. Yeah, thank you for your suggestion, councilor

1:02:001 hour, 2 minutesOliver and speed. It is unusual to have a named wrote simply to note something but it has been requested and I repeat because of the importance of the item to the chamber I am willing to do it. Okay.

1:02:121 hour, 2 minutes, 12

Um so thank you councilor bar, councilor bell,

1:02:201 hour, 2 minutes, 20

councilor Blair, councilor Brown ned.

1:02:261 hour, 2 minutes, 26

Councilor Clifton councilor Curry noted. Councilor Diamond.

1:02:331 hour, 2 minutes, 33

Councilor Elsenda noted.

1:02:361 hour, 2 minutes, 36

Councilor Fioni noted.

1:02:381 hour, 2 minutes, 38

Councilor Fenick noted. Councilor Ford, not noted. Councilor Fox.

1:02:451 hour, 2 minutes, 45

Councilor Herbert, not noted.
1:02:48 1 hour, 2 minutes, 48
Councilor Humphrey, Councilor Jones, noted.
1:02:52 1 hour, 2 minutes, 52
Councilor Kilgawa, noted.
1:02:55 1 hour, 2 minutes, 55
Councilor Leather, not noted.
1:02:59 1 hour, 2 minutes, 59
Councilor Ling, sorry, Councilor Ling, I didn't hear. Thank you.
1:03:06 1 hour, 3 minutes, 6
Councilor Matkins, noted. Councilor Madison. Councilor Mchuan.
1:03:16 1 hour, 3 minutes, 16
Councilor Mchuan. Sorry, not noted.
1:03:20 1 hour, 3 minutes, 20
Councilor Medov, noted.
1:03:22 1 hour, 3 minutes, 22
Councilor Mau, noted.
1:03:26 1 hour, 3 minutes, 26
Councilor McQue, noted.
1:03:29 1 hour, 3 minutes, 29
Councilor Newman, ned.
1:03:32 1 hour, 3 minutes, 32
Councilor Oliver, councilor Orton, noted. Councilor Owens Palmer not noted.
1:03:40 1 hour, 3 minutes, 40
Councilor Perry noted.
1:03:42 1 hour, 3 minutes, 42
Councilor Pitik noted.
1:03:44 1 hour, 3 minutes, 44
Councilor Ramen noted.
1:03:49 1 hour, 3 minutes, 49
Councilor Rice noted.
1:03:53 1 hour, 3 minutes, 53
Councilor Richardson noted.
1:03:56 1 hour, 3 minutes, 56
Councilor Ross noted.
1:03:58 1 hour, 3 minutes, 58
Councilor Royal noted.
1:04:01 1 hour, 4 minutes, 1 second Councilor A. Smith noted.
1:04:04 1 hour, 4 minutes, 4
Councilor M. Smith noted.
1:04:06 1 hour, 4 minutes, 6

Councilor S. Smith noted.

1:04:09 1 hour, 4 minutes, 9

Councilor Ste noted.

1:04:11 1 hour, 4 minutes, 11

Councilor Stonehouse not noted.

1:04:16 1 hour, 4 minutes, 16

Councilor Spena noted.

1:04:18 1 hour, 4 minutes, 18

Councilor Taylor not noted.

1:04:21 1 hour, 4 minutes, 21

Councilor Thomas noted.

1:04:25 1 hour, 4 minutes, 25

Councilor Tulie noted. Councilor Turnilled. Councilor Weed.

1:04:32 1 hour, 4 minutes, 32

Councilor Heidi Wildard noted. Thank you members. If I can just have a moment.

1:05:37 1 hour, 5 minutes, 37

The result of the vote.

1:05:46 1 hour, 5 minutes, 46

The result is 35 noted and 12 not noted.

1:05:55 1 hour, 5 minutes, 55

Now we move on to number three.

1:06:01 1 hour, 6 minutes, 1 second Finally, this is very important. So I'll uh move close to the microphone so make sure everybody can hear this.

1:06:12 1 hour, 6 minutes, 12

Finally, does council agree to adopt the local plan

1:06:18 1 hour, 6 minutes, 18

together with consequential recommendations that flow from that as set out within the report.

1:06:29 1 hour, 6 minutes, 29

Is that agreed? Not agreed. Not agreed. Yeah. Named vote, please. Named vote.

1:06:36 1 hour, 6 minutes, 36

Okay. Thank you. Can I have can I have a show of hands for the named vote please?

1:06:41 1 hour, 6 minutes, 41

Okay thank you. So members we will do a named vote again and this is in relation to item three which is what the the

1:06:50 1 hour, 6 minutes, 50

mayor's read out. So I will read out the names in the same order again and this time if I could ask you to indicate

1:06:58 1 hour, 6 minutes, 58

whether you are for against or abstaining from the vote. Okay. So councilor bar Four.

1:07:08 1 hour, 7 minutes, 8

Councilor Bell. Against. Councilor Blair. Against. Councilor Brown. Four.

1:07:161 hour, 7 minutes, 16

Councilor Clifton. Four. Councilor Curry. Four. Councilor Diamond. Four.

1:07:231 hour, 7 minutes, 23

Councilor Elsander. Four. Councilor Fioni. Four. Councilor Fenick. Four.

1:07:311 hour, 7 minutes, 31

Councilor Ford.

1:07:341 hour, 7 minutes, 34

Against. Councilor Fox Councilor Herbert against.

1:07:421 hour, 7 minutes, 42

Councilor Humphrey Councilor Jones four.

1:07:481 hour, 7 minutes, 48

Councilor Kilgawa against.

1:07:511 hour, 7 minutes, 51

Councilor Leather against. Councilor Ling.

1:07:571 hour, 7 minutes, 57

Councilor Mackkins four.

1:07:591 hour, 7 minutes, 59

Councilor Madison. Councilor Mchuan against.

1:08:051 hour, 8 minutes, 5

Councilor Medco four. Councilor Mau.

1:08:111 hour, 8 minutes, 11

Councilor McQue against.

1:08:141 hour, 8 minutes, 14

Councilor Newman four.

1:08:161 hour, 8 minutes, 16

Councilor Oliver against. Councilor Orton.

1:08:221 hour, 8 minutes, 22

Councilor Owens Palmer against. Councilor Perry. Councilor Pitik.

1:08:301 hour, 8 minutes, 30

Councilor Ramen against. Councilor Rice.

1:08:351 hour, 8 minutes, 35

Councilor Richardson four.

1:08:381 hour, 8 minutes, 38

Councilor Ross four.

1:08:401 hour, 8 minutes, 40

Councilor Royal four.

1:08:431 hour, 8 minutes, 43

Councilor A. Smith four.

1:08:451 hour, 8 minutes, 45

Councilor M. Smith four.

1:08:47 1 hour, 8 minutes, 47

Councilor S. Smith four.

1:08:50 1 hour, 8 minutes, 50

Councilor Ste four.

1:08:53 1 hour, 8 minutes, 53

Councilor Stonehouse against. Councilor Sebens four.

1:09:00 1 hour, 9 minutes Councilor Taylor against.

1:09:03 1 hour, 9 minutes, 3

Councilor Thomas four.

1:09:06 1 hour, 9 minutes, 6

Councilor Tulie four.

1:09:11 1 hour, 9 minutes, 11

Councilor Turbell four.

1:09:13 1 hour, 9 minutes, 13

Councilor We Councilor Heidi Wilder four.

1:09:18 1 hour, 9 minutes, 18

Thank you members. If I can just have a moment.

1:09:22 1 hour, 9 minutes, 22

Could I have a very brief point of information? Could members please turn their microphones on when they vote because the people at home won't be able to hear.

1:09:34 1 hour, 9 minutes, 34

Okay.

1:10:23 1 hour, 10 minutes, 23

The result of the vote is 34 in favor and 13 against.

1:10:36 1 hour, 10 minutes, 36

I therefore declare the motion carried.

1:10:58 1 hour, 10 minutes, 58

To those in the public gallery continuing to interrupt the proceedings of this council meeting today, I'll provide you with one more opportunity to

1:11:07 1 hour, 11 minutes, 7

reflect on your behavior and to remain in the public gallery quietly and respectfully.

1:11:14 1 hour, 11 minutes, 14

If you do not do so, you give me no option but to ask that they leave the public gallery.

Thank you. Absolutely disgraceful.

1:11:23 1 hour, 11 minutes, 23

Money money. Thank you for water. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. This nothing disgusting.

1:11:36 1 hour, 11 minutes, 36

And you talking like that. You want you want put down

1:12:00 1 hour, 12 minutes Okay.

1:12:02 1 hour, 12 minutes, 2

The next item of business is to consider a report of the director of business and resources regarding the digital Can you hear me?

1:12:141 hour, 12 minutes, 14

All right, I'll start again.

1:12:181 hour, 12 minutes, 18

The next item of business is to consider a report of the director of business and

1:12:241 hour, 12 minutes, 24

resources regarding the digital and ICT strategy 2026 to 2029.

1:12:331 hour, 12 minutes, 33

I will ask councilor Susan Singena, deputy leader and lead member for finance and resources to present this

1:12:401 hour, 12 minutes, 40

report. Councilor Sab, thank you Mr. Mayor. The digital strategy 2026 to 2029.

1:12:521 hour, 12 minutes, 52

What this is, it's a clear three-year plan to remove the council's digital services, technology, and cyber

1:12:591 hour, 12 minutes, 59

security. Sorry, I said to remove. I think I did are meant to improve why it matters. Residents want services to be

1:13:071 hour, 13 minutes, 7

easier to use, quicker and better connected. The council needs to modernize technology, manage costs, and strengthen protection against cyber

1:13:161 hour, 13 minutes, 16

threats. What will change? Easier services, make online services simpler, starting with waste services. Better

1:13:251 hour, 13 minutes, 25

support. Help more residents access devices, connectivity, and digital skills.

1:13:311 hour, 13 minutes, 31

Smarter working gives staff and members better tools, training, data, and AI support.

Stronger technology, replace

1:13:401 hour, 13 minutes, 40

agent equipment, modernize systems, and improve cyber security.

1:13:471 hour, 13 minutes, 47

Our priorities are great digital services, digital access for all, empowering our workforce,

1:13:561 hour, 13 minutes, 56

strong digital foundations, trust and security. The funding position is that no specific new funding is requested in

1:14:041 hour, 14 minutes, 4

this strategy. Delivery will be phased and managed within future planning and approval processes. The key risks are

1:14:121 hour, 14 minutes, 12

funding and capacity, staff adoption, older systems, data quality and cyber attacks. The decision required is to

1:14:21 1 hour, 14 minutes, 21

approve the digital and ICT strategy for 2026 to 29. note the phased approach to delivering the strategy.

1:14:33 1 hour, 14 minutes, 33

I second that. Seconded by um councilor Fioni.

1:14:43 1 hour, 14 minutes, 43

Do members have any questions or wish to speak to the report? Councilor Taylor.

1:14:50 1 hour, 14 minutes, 50

Thank you, Mr. May. Thank you for the report and all the officers work on it as well. Um, can the cabinet explain how the strategy will ensure that residents

1:14:57 1 hour, 14 minutes, 57

who are digitally excluded can I get much closer?

1:15:08 1 hour, 15 minutes, 8

Um, can the can you please explain how the strategy will ensure that residents who are digitally excluded, particularly

1:15:17 1 hour, 15 minutes, 17

older people, disabled residents and those on low income are not disadvantaged when accessing council services. Please. Thank you.

1:15:35 1 hour, 15 minutes, 35

Anyone else wish to speak on this report?

1:15:39 1 hour, 15 minutes, 39

No. Uh do members have any Sorry. Thank you. Pardon. Uh councilor Sanger, do you wish to reply to the debate?

1:15:50 1 hour, 15 minutes, 50

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We'll do councilor Taylor. That's a question I asked myself. Thank you for asking it. I do believe it is in the strategy. Um,

1:15:57 1 hour, 15 minutes, 57

but I will take it away, double check, and get back to you. Thank you.

1:16:05 1 hour, 16 minutes, 5

Okay, colleagues, is it recommended that the council approve the digital and ICT strategy 26

1:16:13 1 hour, 16 minutes, 13

to 29 and note the delivery arrangements? Is that agreed?

1:16:21 1 hour, 16 minutes, 21

Sounds like it's agreed.

1:16:33 1 hour, 16 minutes, 33

The next item of business is the director of business and resources report on the modern slavery strategy 2026 to 2028.

1:16:43 1 hour, 16 minutes, 43

I will ask counselor Susan Sena, deputy leader and lead member for finance and resources to present her report.

1:16:52 1 hour, 16 minutes, 52

Counselor Sanger, again, thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um, this is a refreshed modern slavery strategy for

1:16:59 1 hour, 16 minutes, 59

2026 to 28. It sets out how the council and partners will identify, prevent, respond to, and disrupt modern slavery

1:17:08 1 hour, 17 minutes, 8

while coordinating action across services.

1:17:12 1 hour, 17 minutes, 12

Why it matters. Modern slavery is a horrific and often hidden crime stripping vulnerable people of their rights and dignity. The council has

1:17:21 1 hour, 17 minutes, 21

important legal responsibilities and opportunities around safeguarding and supply chains transparency and needs an

1:17:28 1 hour, 17 minutes, 28

updated approach to effectively address existing and emerging risks. What will change?

Stronger focus on coordination and improved prevention.

1:17:41 1 hour, 17 minutes, 41

continue training and support and stronger safeguarding.

1:17:46 1 hour, 17 minutes, 46

Our priorities are to identify whereby equipping our workforce to recognize and report signs of modern-day slavery.

1:17:55 1 hour, 17 minutes, 55

Respond ensuring our services are able to respond confidently and effectively where slavery or potential slavery is identified.

1:18:04 1 hour, 18 minutes, 4

prevent ensuring relevant services with particular regulatory and inspection are able to support police colleagues and their investigations.

1:18:14 1 hour, 18 minutes, 14

Disrupt strengthening our internal processes and reducing risks of enabling modern slavery in our supply lines.

1:18:22 1 hour, 18 minutes, 22

engage leveraging council influence to raise awareness of modern slavery in the community and coordinate sharing

1:18:31 1 hour, 18 minutes, 31

information and linking into governance arrangements to ensure that cross-service activity is coordinated and complimentary.

1:18:39 1 hour, 18 minutes, 39

The funding position on this is that no new funding is required and activities will be delivered within existing service budgets and resources. The key

1:18:481 hour, 18 minutes, 48

risks to this is failing to identify victims could leave vulnerable people at risk of harm.

Ongoing risks of modern slavery within supply chains and

1:18:571 hour, 18 minutes, 57

commission services and reputational and legal risks if the council does not meet its responsibilities. The decision

1:19:041 hour, 19 minutes, 4

required is to approve and adopt South Tinside modern slavery strategy 2026 to 28.

1:19:121 hour, 19 minutes, 12

Is that seconded?

1:19:161 hour, 19 minutes, 16

I'll second that. Sorry colleagues, are there any questions or

1:19:261 hour, 19 minutes, 26

does any member wish to speak to the report? Councilor Gilg.

1:19:311 hour, 19 minutes, 31

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um, and thank you uh deputy leader for uh bringing this report. I really welcome the use of your

1:19:381 hour, 19 minutes, 38

word continue to because that was um a provision made under the former Labor Council uh Laborled Council do I say.

1:19:461 hour, 19 minutes, 46

Um, I'd just like to know given the very very tight budgetary constraints that we are experiencing and have done for some time, how can we improve and yet it be costneutral? Thank you.

1:20:011 hour, 20 minutes, 1 secondCouncil councilor SA do you wish to reply the debate?

1:20:091 hour, 20 minutes, 9

Yes, I'll reply but Oh, it is working.

1:20:111 hour, 20 minutes, 11

It's not bonded. Um I've been reassured that that's the case, but I'll take that away councilor

1:20:191 hour, 20 minutes, 19

Kilgawa and I'll get back to you. Thank you.

1:20:241 hour, 20 minutes, 24

Council for sorry beg you pardon councilor Taylor.

1:20:311 hour, 20 minutes, 31

Thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you for the report.

1:20:351 hour, 20 minutes, 35

The green vote welcomes the strategy and would like to thank officers for the hard work on this report. Can the lead member outline how success will be

1:20:431 hour, 20 minutes, 43

measured and what training will be provided to counselors and frontline staff to help identify the potential victims? Thank you.

1:20:52 1 hour, 20 minutes, 52

I do believe it is in the strategy. Obviously, it's a it's a long document.

1:20:57 1 hour, 20 minutes, 57

Again, I'll get back to you with the exact details, but I do believe it'll be in the strategy in your pack. Thank you.

1:21:06 1 hour, 21 minutes, 6

Got it. Okay. Colleagues, councilors recommended to approve and adopt the modern slavery strategy 2026 to 2028.

1:21:16 1 hour, 21 minutes, 16

Is that approved? Sounds like it's approved.

1:21:25 1 hour, 21 minutes, 25

Thank you, colleagues.

1:21:33 1 hour, 21 minutes, 33

The next item of business is to consider a report of the director of business and resources report on the modern slavery transparency statement 2025 to 26.

1:21:46 1 hour, 21 minutes, 46

I will ask councilor Susan Sanger, deputy leader and lead member for finance and resources to present her report. Councilor Sena.

1:21:56 1 hour, 21 minutes, 56

Thank you Mr. Mayor. So following on from the report, um this is an annual modern slavery transparency statement for 202526.

1:22:05 1 hour, 22 minutes, 5

It sets out what the council has done to reduce the risk of modern slavery in its services, supply chains, and communities, and to meet its legal

1:22:13 1 hour, 22 minutes, 13

duties. It matters because the council is required under section 54 of the modern slavery act 2015 to publish an

1:22:21 1 hour, 22 minutes, 21

annual transparency statement. The statement provides assurance that the council is actively managing risks in supply chains and has appropriate

1:22:29 1 hour, 22 minutes, 29

policies and processes in place. What will change? Public accountability, supply chain oversight and community

1:22:38 1 hour, 22 minutes, 38

protection. The funding position is that no new funding is required. Activity reported in the statement has been

1:22:45 1 hour, 22 minutes, 45

delivered from existing service budgets and resources. The key risks are failure to maintain compliance could create legal and reputational risks for the

1:22:53 1 hour, 22 minutes, 53

council. Modern slavery remains a hidden threat and may go undetected without ongoing vigilance and training. Risks

1:23:01 1 hour, 23 minutes, 1 second remain within supply chains and certain higher risk sectors including care services, recruitment and construction.

1:23:08 1 hour, 23 minutes, 8

The decision required is for to approve the publication of the modern slavery transparency statement 2025 to 26 for

1:23:16 1 hour, 23 minutes, 16

the council website. Authorized submission of the statement to the government's modern slavery statement registry.

1:23:24 1 hour, 23 minutes, 24

Seconded.

1:23:25 1 hour, 23 minutes, 25

I'll second that. May councilor Fashion seconded.

1:23:33 1 hour, 23 minutes, 33

Colleagues, are there any questions or does any member wish to speak the report?

1:23:41 1 hour, 23 minutes, 41

That's a no.

1:23:51 1 hour, 23 minutes, 51

Colleagues, council is recommended to approve publication of the modern slavery transparency statement 202526.

1:23:58 1 hour, 23 minutes, 58

Do members agree? Agreed. Agreed.

1:24:06 1 hour, 24 minutes, 6

Thank you colleagues.

1:24:15 1 hour, 24 minutes, 15

The next item of business is to consider a report of the interim director of legal and governance regarding standards

1:24:23 1 hour, 24 minutes, 23

committee decisions notice C240.

1:24:28 1 hour, 24 minutes, 28

I will ask councilor Paul Mackins, leader of the council to present this report. Councilor Mckings. Thank you,

1:24:36 1 hour, 24 minutes, 36

mayor. If you don't mind, I'll I'll sit down so that you can hear me through the microphone.

Uh members, this report asks council to note the findings of the

1:24:45 1 hour, 24 minutes, 45

standards committee in relation to complaint C240 and to consider the recommendation to

1:24:53 1 hour, 24 minutes, 53

issue a formal censure of form of former counselor John Robertson.

1:25:001 hour, 25 minutesThe standards committee considered the matter at a hearing on the 10th of March, 2026 and determined that former

1:25:081 hour, 25 minutes, 8

councilor Robertson had committed a number of breaches of the members code of conduct.

1:25:161 hour, 25 minutes, 16

Following the hearing, the subject member exercised the right available under the council's standards

1:25:231 hour, 25 minutes, 23

arrangements to request a review of the decision.

1:25:281 hour, 25 minutes, 28

That review was considered and the original findings and outcome were upheld.

1:25:371 hour, 25 minutes, 37

Mr. Robertson is no longer a serving councilor following the May tw the May 2026 local elections.

1:25:461 hour, 25 minutes, 46

As a result, the recommendations relating to training committee membership and restrictions on access to officers can no longer be implemented.

1:25:581 hour, 25 minutes, 58

The report therefore asks council to note the committee's findings, note that the outcome was subsequently reviewed

1:26:051 hour, 26 minutes, 5

and upheld and considered the recommendation to issue a formal censure.

1:26:121 hour, 26 minutes, 12

I move the recommendation set out in the report.

1:26:201 hour, 26 minutes, 20

Is that seconded? Councilor Roy.

1:26:271 hour, 26 minutes, 27

Colleagues, are there any questions or does any member wish to speak the report?

1:26:341 hour, 26 minutes, 34

Councilor Ford.

1:26:371 hour, 26 minutes, 37

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, leader, for presenting the report. Um it's very welcome um to see that the

1:26:441 hour, 26 minutes, 44

standards committee has um has been um working to um seek to um censure poor

1:26:531 hour, 26 minutes, 53

behavior and to promote um good behavior across all all of us as councilors. So it's very welcome. Thank you.

1:27:021 hour, 27 minutes, 2

Thank you councilor Ford. Anybody else? No.

1:27:071 hour, 27 minutes, 7

Okay. Uh, councilor Mackins, do you wish to reply to the debate? No, thanks.

1:27:161 hour, 27 minutes, 16

Colleagues, council is recommended to note the contents of the report. Is the report noted?

1:27:281 hour, 27 minutes, 28

Yeah.

1:27:321 hour, 27 minutes, 32

Council is also recommended to issue a formal censure of former councilor Robertson.

1:27:401 hour, 27 minutes, 40

Is that agreed? Agreed. Agreed.

1:27:501 hour, 27 minutes, 50

Thank you colleagues. Item nine.

1:28:021 hour, 28 minutes, 2

The next item of business is to consider a report of the interim director of legal and governance regarding a community governance review of the

1:28:111 hour, 28 minutes, 11

Witburn neighborhood area. I will ask councilor Machines, leader of the council, to present this report.

1:28:191 hour, 28 minutes, 19

Councilor Mackins.

1:28:211 hour, 28 minutes, 21

Thank you, Chair. This report asks council to commence a community governance review at CGR of the Witburn neighborhood area.

1:28:321 hour, 28 minutes, 32

The report arises from a valid application submitted by the Witburn Neighborhood Forum seeking a review with the aim of establishing a parish council for Witburn.

1:28:421 hour, 28 minutes, 42

It is important to stress that tonight council is not deciding whether a parish council should be created.

1:28:511 hour, 28 minutes, 51

Why the review is required?

1:28:551 hour, 28 minutes, 55

The Witburn Neighborhood Forum is a designated neighborhood forum with a maid neighborhood plan in place.

1:29:031 hour, 29 minutes, 3

Because of that status, the application meets the legal requirements and the council is legally obliged to undertake the community governance review.

1:29:141 hour, 29 minutes, 14

The council has a statutory duty to carry out the review and consult interested parties as part of that exercise.

1:29:241 hour, 29 minutes, 24

Failure to undertake the review would mean the council was not meeting its legal obligations.

1:29:331 hour, 29 minutes, 33

What a community governance review does.

1:29:361 hour, 29 minutes, 36

A CGR is a formal legal process that examines whether existing local governance arrangements remain

1:29:441 hour, 29 minutes, 44

appropriate and whether changes should be made.

1:29:481 hour, 29 minutes, 48

It allows consideration of such of issues such as the creation of a parish parish,

1:29:561 hour, 29 minutes, 56

establishment of a parish council, electoral arrangements, number of parish counselors and whether parish wards are required.

1:30:081 hour, 30 minutes, 8

The review must be consider sorry the review must consider whether governance arrangements reflect local identity and

1:30:161 hour, 30 minutes, 16

community interests are effective and convenient supportive community cohesion.

1:30:241 hour, 30 minutes, 24

Sorry I should have said support community cohesion area under review.

1:30:341 hour, 30 minutes, 34

The review area will cover the existing neighborhood, sorry, Whipern neighborhood plan area. Public consultation.

1:30:421 hour, 30 minutes, 42

No decision has been made about creating a parish council. The purpose of the review is to gather evidence and hear the views of the residents, businesses,

1:30:511 hour, 30 minutes, 51

community organizations, and stakeholders.

1:30:551 hour, 30 minutes, 55

There will be two formal consultation stages before any final recommendations are brought back to the council.

1:31:031 hour, 31 minutes, 3

We want as many people as possible to engage in that process and express their views.

1:31:101 hour, 31 minutes, 10

Proposed timetable.

1:31:121 hour, 31 minutes, 12

Terms of reference will be published at the commencement of the review. The proposed indicative timetable ensures

1:31:191 hour, 31 minutes, 19

that the council completes the necessary work within the statutory time frame which is 12 months from a receipt of a valid request.

1:31:30 1 hour, 31 minutes, 30

Key fact for members, the current electorate within the review area is approximately 4,292 electors.

1:31:40 1 hour, 31 minutes, 40

Forecasts indicate this may increase to around 4,500 electors over the next five years.

1:31:49 1 hour, 31 minutes, 49

South Tinside currently has no parish councils, so this would represent the first such arrangement within the borough. if ultimately approved following the review process.

1:32:01 1 hour, 32 minutes, 1 second Financial considerations.

1:32:04 1 hour, 32 minutes, 4

Members should note that there are costs associated with conducting the review itself, including consultation and engagement activity.

1:32:15 1 hour, 32 minutes, 15

There is currently no specific council budget allocation for community governance reviews, but the law is clear

1:32:22 1 hour, 32 minutes, 22

that the council has no option no option but to conduct a review when a request for one is received from a neighborhood forum with a maid neighborhood plan.

1:32:34 1 hour, 32 minutes, 34

If a parish council were eventually created, there would be establishment and ongoing governance costs which would need to be considered as part of any future decision-making process.

1:32:47 1 hour, 32 minutes, 47

The review will therefore ensure that any future recommendations are informed by consultation evidence, practical

1:32:54 1 hour, 32 minutes, 54

governance considerations and financial implications.

1:33:00 1 hour, 33 minutes Recommendations chair. The recommendations before the council are straightforward.

1:33:07 1 hour, 33 minutes, 7

Note receipt of the valid application.

1:33:10 1 hour, 33 minutes, 10

Note the legal requirement to undertake the community governance review.

1:33:14 1 hour, 33 minutes, 14

Approve the terms of reference and consultation arrangements.

1:33:19 1 hour, 33 minutes, 19

Enable constitution committees committee to consider consultation feedback and draft recommendations.

1:33:27 1 hour, 33 minutes, 27

receive a further report next year with final recommendations for council's consideration.

1:33:351 hour, 33 minutes, 35

To close, this report is about enabling a lawful, open, and transparent review process. It is about gathering evidence,

1:33:441 hour, 33 minutes, 44

listening to residents, and ensuring that any future decision is informed by the views of the community. I therefore

1:33:511 hour, 33 minutes, 51

move the recommendations as set out in the report.

1:33:571 hour, 33 minutes, 57

Thank you, councilor Mackins. Is that seconded? Seconded.

1:34:031 hour, 34 minutes, 3

Colleagues, are there any questions or does any member wish to speak the report?

Councilor Owens Palmer.

1:34:121 hour, 34 minutes, 12

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you for that presentation, Councilor Marks. Um, so the request of Whitburn Neighborhood Forum, the the the CGR is going to take

1:34:201 hour, 34 minutes, 20

place. We don't have any choice about that. Um, and it's obliging us to consult with residents and other interested parties who seem to be

1:34:281 hour, 34 minutes, 28

Legion. If you read the notes in here, um, and I'm aware that this is such an unusual occurrence that uh, two of our

1:34:371 hour, 34 minutes, 37

officers have actually had to undergo training in how to deal with this, how to approach this this this request.

1:34:451 hour, 34 minutes, 45

Um and I'm also aware I'm very grateful that South Taide Council is working in collaboration with some other councils who are in the same position who found

1:34:521 hour, 34 minutes, 52

themselves with uh uh people who are wanting to develop a parish council within a larger council.

1:35:001 hour, 35 minutesUm I believe that one of the reasons they want to do this is that if Whitburn does become a parish, it will allow them

1:35:071 hour, 35 minutes, 7

to access some funding which is currently not available through uh to them through the council. Uh I believe that includes uh European Union funding.

1:35:171 hour, 35 minutes, 17

Um and I can understand why they want to do that, but it is going to be quite interesting to hear what the financial implications are for us as a council

1:35:251 hour, 35 minutes, 25

because uh when they're going to reach out, it does say I mean I'm impressed.

1:35:30 1 hour, 35 minutes, 30

They're going to have online surveys, letters, details on the website, press releases, group meetings, community venues, stakeholder workshops, and

1:35:38 1 hour, 35 minutes, 38

presentations. It sounds expensive. I'm curious to know what the costings will end up being and what area of the council that that budget is going to be

1:35:47 1 hour, 35 minutes, 47

funded from. Um, but it is a legal requirement. So, we'll have to go ahead go ahead and be interesting to see what

1:35:54 1 hour, 35 minutes, 54

the result of that consultation is. I think you know the people of Whitburn want this and uh or some of them at least and I think it's important that they're given the opportunity to request

1:36:02 1 hour, 36 minutes, 2

it and we'll see where we go. I am slightly surprised that the the whole thing is uh allowed to go ahead on the

1:36:10 1 hour, 36 minutes, 10

on the basis of one vote in one neighborhood forum meeting where there were only 52 people who voted and only

1:36:17 1 hour, 36 minutes, 17

40 of them voted for it. It seems a very small sample of residents who voted for this and the the costing implications

1:36:24 1 hour, 36 minutes, 24

could be fairly substantial for us. But I'm very interested to see what comes back next year and I'm sure we're all looking forward to finding out what the rest of the residents think.

1:36:34 1 hour, 36 minutes, 34

Thank you, councilor Owens Palmer. I believe councilor Taylor wanted to speak.

1:36:39 1 hour, 36 minutes, 39

Thank you, Mr. Man. Thank you for the report. Um, council on Palmer did say some of what I was I was thinking as well.

1:36:46 1 hour, 36 minutes, 46

Um, just some clarity really because I know in the report it mentions all the consultation, but if I correct if I'm wrong, I think in your speech you said

1:36:54 1 hour, 36 minutes, 54

there was no funding for any of the the consultation by the council. So I was just wondering um would would that all

1:37:01 1 hour, 37 minutes, 1 second be resident le or just some just some clarity on exactly how that will look in reality for the if you could please.

1:37:08 1 hour, 37 minutes, 8

Thank you.

1:37:101 hour, 37 minutes, 10

Anyone else for Thank you Mr. Mayor. Just very briefly to say I really welcome this. I think we

1:37:181 hour, 37 minutes, 18

need more democracy and not less. So thank you.

1:37:231 hour, 37 minutes, 23

Okay. Nobody else. Uh so councilor machines do you wish to reply to the debate?

1:37:281 hour, 37 minutes, 28

Yeah I would just uh reply to uh with regards to funding um there is nothing in the budget uh for any funding uh for

1:37:361 hour, 37 minutes, 36

this review. So um yes that will be met by the council as we have uh a legal

1:37:421 hour, 37 minutes, 42

obligation and you again um future costs will be met uh of the running of that if

1:37:491 hour, 37 minutes, 49

it if it did happen uh would be uh paid for by um the residents themselves.

1:37:571 hour, 37 minutes, 57

Thank you.

1:37:591 hour, 37 minutes, 59

Thank you, councilor Mackin. Colleagues, council has asked to note the receipt of the community governance

1:38:071 hour, 38 minutes, 7

application and its validity and agree to undertake a community governance review of the Witburn neighborhood area

1:38:161 hour, 38 minutes, 16

and the associated recommendations as set out in the report. Is that agreed?

1:38:251 hour, 38 minutes, 25

Agreed. Thank you colleagues.

1:38:381 hour, 38 minutes, 38

The next item of business is to consider a report of the interim director of legal and governance to appoint to

1:38:441 hour, 38 minutes, 44

committees and outside bodies. I will ask councilor Paul Mackings, leader of the council to present this report.

1:38:521 hour, 38 minutes, 52

Councilor Mackings.

1:38:541 hour, 38 minutes, 54

Thank you chair. This report seeks council approval for a number of changes to committee memberships outside body

1:39:021 hour, 39 minutes, 2

appointments and chair vicechair positions following the annual general meet sorry the annual meeting of council in May 2026.

1:39:121 hour, 39 minutes, 12

The changes reflect nominations received from the relevant political group and also account for the current vacancy

1:39:191 hour, 39 minutes, 19

arising from the resignation of a Harton ward counselor. The report confirms the council's current political balance and

1:39:291 hour, 39 minutes, 29

ensures appointments remain aligned with the requirements of the local government and housing act 1989.

1:39:371 hour, 39 minutes, 37

There are no significant financial equality consultation or environmental

1:39:441 hour, 39 minutes, 44

implications arising directly from these proposed changes. The recommendation are

1:39:511 hour, 39 minutes, 51

procedural and are intended to ensure committees and outside bodies continue to operate effectively and in accordance

1:39:581 hour, 39 minutes, 58

with the council's statutory obligations.

1:40:031 hour, 40 minutes, 3

I therefore move the recommendations set out in the report.

1:40:121 hour, 40 minutes, 12

Thank you counselor Kil sorry counselor machines. Is that seconded?

1:40:301 hour, 40 minutes, 30

Did you hear that? I didn't get me mic on. Members, are there any questions or would any member wish to speak to the report?

1:40:381 hour, 40 minutes, 38

Counselor Kilgar.

1:40:401 hour, 40 minutes, 40

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think um a very short time has elapsed since um annual uh council and it concerns me that so

1:40:491 hour, 40 minutes, 49

many amendments are being made. Um I'd like to know why. Um I know that I've already asked if there is any cost

1:40:561 hour, 40 minutes, 56

implication and the answer to that was it should be costneutral. However, there is officer time and and that costs money

1:41:041 hour, 41 minutes, 4

on officers that could be doing something else. So I really would like to know why that there have been so many changes. I'd like to understand is it

1:41:121 hour, 41 minutes, 12

around commitment because the leading group set the agenda um they set the places and the positions for the leading

1:41:201 hour, 41 minutes, 20

group and we're coming very shortly after that annual group and uh or that council and we already see a huge raft

1:41:281 hour, 41 minutes, 28

of changes. It's really important um when we settle into committees that there is continuity. So there has been a

1:41:361 hour, 41 minutes, 36

start on those committees and that start is now being disrupted by all of those changes that have been mentioned. Um I

1:41:431 hour, 41 minutes, 43

also um want to make note that there are vacancies. So we have 40 um reform UK counselors in well not in the chamber

1:41:521 hour, 41 minutes, 52

but you know in in position and yet there are vacancies. I'd like to know why that is as well.

Um, and finally, I do welcome um, Counselor Mackings

1:42:011 hour, 42 minutes, 1 secondreferring to the outgoing Reform UK member as

resigned because given the behavior that has been publicized and evidenced, why wasn't he expelled? Q.

1:42:141 hour, 42 minutes, 14

Thank you, Counselor Kilg. Anybody else?

1:42:181 hour, 42 minutes, 18

No. So, Counselor Mackins, do you wish to reply to the debate?

1:42:231 hour, 42 minutes, 23

Yes, I'll reply to the debate. Um thank you counselor Kilgaw uh yeah you

1:42:311 hour, 42 minutes, 31

reform UK uh came in uh with sweeping changes into the chamber and a lot of our counselors it was the first time

1:42:391 hour, 42 minutes, 39

that um they had any experience in standing for any committee um and they've exercised their duty uh you know

1:42:491 hour, 42 minutes, 49

uh in a immaculate way I'm very proud of them uh just you know sometimes when you people are so inexperienced unlike

1:42:571 hour, 42 minutes, 57

yourself um you know they may find that some of these committees do not suit them um from a timing point of view um certainly not for a lack of commitment.

1:43:071 hour, 43 minutes, 7

So thank you.

1:43:131 hour, 43 minutes, 13

Yes, counselor Kilgar Mr. Mayor just just to come back it was around the vacancies. Why are there remaining vacancies when there are 40

1:43:221 hour, 43 minutes, 22

reform UK counselors um sitting? And I I'm fully aware we have a bi-election and I hope that's really positive. Um

1:43:301 hour, 43 minutes, 30

however, if that even was waited for, then those changes could have taken place then, but they're going to have to take place again. I I did speak with the

1:43:381 hour, 43 minutes, 38

monitoring officer, so I'm fully aware as to the reasoning around her position on that. But I think that the

1:43:451 hour, 43 minutes, 45

significant amount of changes I understand that there is a brand new council, but I've never known it in in

1:43:521 hour, 43 minutes, 52

our history as a council for so many changes and it's about getting the right fit. I would have hoped that that right fit would have been before the member stood. Thank you.

1:44:051 hour, 44 minutes, 5

Okay. Thank you. Would you like to reply to that, Council Mackings? Uh, no. Just I'm going to repeat myself, so I won't reply.

1:44:141 hour, 44 minutes, 14

Okay, colleagues, council has asked to approve the appointments set out within this report. Is that approved?

1:44:261 hour, 44 minutes, 26

Yeah.

1:44:341 hour, 44 minutes, 34

Right. The next item of business is to consider a report of the interim director of legal and governance

1:44:411 hour, 44 minutes, 41

regarding the in-ear proposed amendments to council constitution.

1:44:471 hour, 44 minutes, 47

I will ask counselor Paul machines, leader of the council, to present this report. Counselor Mackins. Thank you, chair.

1:44:551 hour, 44 minutes, 55

This report brings together the number of in-ear proposed changes to the council's constitution.

1:45:011 hour, 45 minutes, 1 secondThe changes have been considered through the appropriate governance route including the constitution committee.

1:45:081 hour, 45 minutes, 8

The first change strengthens community area forum uh financial controls by requiring receipts or suitable

1:45:161 hour, 45 minutes, 16

documentary evidence for all calf funded expenditure rather than only expenditure over £500.

1:45:241 hour, 45 minutes, 24

The second change clarifies the wording on casting votes by replacing may with will

1:45:331 hour, 45 minutes, 33

so that const so that the constitution is consistent where votes are tied.

1:45:411 hour, 45 minutes, 41

The third change updates motion allocations, sorry, motion allocation arrangements following the change in political

1:45:491 hour, 45 minutes, 49

composition of the council after the May 2026 elections.

1:45:551 hour, 45 minutes, 55

The proposed approach retains the for motion limit but provides for the proportional allocation with crossgroup

1:46:021 hour, 46 minutes, 2

sponsorship so smaller groups are not prevented from participating by the five signatory requirement.

1:46:101 hour, 46 minutes, 10

The purpose of the recommendation is to improve clarity, consistency, transparency, and effective governance.

1:46:201 hour, 46 minutes, 20

I therefore move the recommendation as set out in the report.

1:46:271 hour, 46 minutes, 27

Thank you, Councelor Mackins. Is that seconded? Seconded.

1:46:351 hour, 46 minutes, 35

Okay, members, are there any questions or would any member wish to speak to the report? Councelor Kilgaw.

1:46:431 hour, 46 minutes, 43

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I really welcome these changes. Um, I think it would be remiss if it wasn't recognized because it wasn't a routine review. It was a

1:46:511 hour, 46 minutes, 51

review particularly around calf arrangements that I brought to the chamber this time um the previous meeting. Uh we've agreed the minutes on

1:46:591 hour, 46 minutes, 59

this and it very clearly states that it goes a little step further which I absolutely support. Um if I thought that I could have gotten support for a zero

1:47:071 hour, 47 minutes, 7

to 500 and beyond I would have suggested that then I thought it was a little too much.

However, I would like that to go a

1:47:141 hour, 47 minutes, 14

tiny step further. Um, I think we need to add um the evidencing of spend should

1:47:221 hour, 47 minutes, 22

specifically reflect the purchase of the items agreed in the grant. Um, that they should apply to grants that were made

1:47:301 hour, 47 minutes, 30

this municipal year that have yet to have been spent by way of the event not having yet taken place. So the preceding

1:47:381 hour, 47 minutes, 38

um mention um is all in order to so say for example you have um a grant that has

1:47:451 hour, 47 minutes, 45

been granted for um say a musical you know accompaniment or something like that that that would be set against a

1:47:531 hour, 47 minutes, 53

receipt for that very nature and that it can't be spent on anything outwit of what it's being asked for and granted

1:48:011 hour, 48 minutes, 1 secondfor. So I think if we go a little bit further because if we just allocate receipts to a value we're not allocating

1:48:081 hour, 48 minutes, 8

receipts to the nature of the type of um request that has been made in the grant and I think that's really important.

1:48:181 hour, 48 minutes, 18

Thank you. Was that councilor Stonehouse wanted to speak?

1:48:231 hour, 48 minutes, 23

Yes. Thank you Mr. Mayor. Um like councilor Kilg Kilgawa I really appreciate the fact that we've got more

1:48:321 hour, 48 minutes, 32

transparency on the um calf um financial controls. So thank you.

1:48:401 hour, 48 minutes, 40

Thank you councilor Stonehouse. Okay.

1:48:521 hour, 48 minutes, 52

Councilor Ford. Thank you, Miss

1:49:021 hour, 49 minutes, 2

Apologies. Right, sort that out in a minute. Right. I I simply wanted to um uh welcome these changes. Um I'm sitting

1:49:091 hour, 49 minutes, 9

on constitution committee um and there was a thorough discussion of um the changes to the the calf spending and I

1:49:181 hour, 49 minutes, 18

believe that the wording uh is um sufficient that it says must be supported by valid receipts um or other

1:49:261 hour, 49 minutes, 26

appropriate documentary evidence. So I think that there is sufficient um uh scrutiny of of this um uh important

1:49:351 hour, 49 minutes, 35

work. Um and I also am not clear. I don't believe that a constitutional change can be applied retrospectively to um grants that have already been made.

1:49:461 hour, 49 minutes, 46

But um otherwise I I welcome the all all three of the changes proposed. Thank you.

1:49:521 hour, 49 minutes, 52

Thank you councilor Ford Mr. M. It was just

1:50:001 hour, 50 minutesYeah. Sorry you've already spoken so we we must move on. Um, councilor Mackkins, do you wish to reply to the debate?

1:50:081 hour, 50 minutes, 8

Yes, I'll reply. Thank you. Um, with I agree with councilor Ford. Um, this was discussed in the scrutiny committee and

1:50:171 hour, 50 minutes, 17

uh I'm think we were all happy with the wording and uh whatever responsibility we're asking the calf to give for their

1:50:251 hour, 50 minutes, 25

receipts. Um, councilor Kilgawa uh I do remember at our first meeting council meeting you brought along um uh a motion

1:50:341 hour, 50 minutes, 34

uh to to u obviously have uh receipts uh provided um you uh less you uh up to a a figure over £25.

1:50:441 hour, 50 minutes, 44

We as a as a uh as a group did not understand what impact that was going to have on the people in the calfs. So

1:50:531 hour, 50 minutes, 53

wisely we waited until we'd spoken to the calfs and understood uh what was required uh and we felt that uh our

1:51:011 hour, 51 minutes, 1 secondarrangement was that uh our agreement was that uh we would ask for receipts up to the full £500. Thank you.

1:51:121 hour, 51 minutes, 12

Thank you councilor Mackings. Uh colleagues council is asked to approve the constitutional amendments set out within this report. Is that agreed?

1:51:221 hour, 51 minutes, 22

Agreed.

1:51:301 hour, 51 minutes, 30

The next business is to receive questions under council procedure rule 8. We have received two questions for

1:51:391 hour, 51 minutes, 39

council for our meeting today which are printed on the agenda. Written responses will be provided within seven days of this meeting.

1:51:52 1 hour, 51 minutes, 52

Mr. May I have a point of order, please? Beg pardon. What was that?

1:52:01 1 hour, 52 minutes, 1 second Does it appertain to the constitution and what's the number of it?

1:52:07 1 hour, 52 minutes, 7

Mr. Mayor, it's relative to the questions. May I speak?

1:52:13 1 hour, 52 minutes, 13

One second, please. Why would we check it out?

1:52:45 1 hour, 52 minutes, 45

Councilor Kilgal, what is the point of order you are seeking to make? Remember, a point of order is about the correct procedure not being followed.

1:52:53 1 hour, 52 minutes, 53

Yes, Mr. Mayor, it appears that um 8.5.3 um and 8.6.2 in the procedure rules and it relates to

1:53:03 1 hour, 53 minutes, 3

questions. Um there have been a number of questions rejected um since last council to this and it does very clearly

1:53:12 1 hour, 53 minutes, 12

state that um any questions that are rejected are forwarded and circulated to members. um this has not occurred um and

1:53:21 1 hour, 53 minutes, 21

I don't think it gives members um sufficient information around what our community are asking of us or of ask or

1:53:30 1 hour, 53 minutes, 30

or asking of council in order to understand better um the nature of their question that was rejected. So for

1:53:38 1 hour, 53 minutes, 38

example, I absolutely understand why all of the Stanley's questions were rejected at um because there were 11 of them and

1:53:46 1 hour, 53 minutes, 46

I think that was explained that they would have accepted one whilst during a consultation. But those questions have

1:53:54 1 hour, 53 minutes, 54

not been circulated to members nor has the uh green belt question which was asked by Mr. Dave Green that was

1:54:02 1 hour, 54 minutes, 2

rejected. So that has not been circulated either. and um I'd like that addressed. Thank you.

1:54:11 1 hour, 54 minutes, 11

Thank you, Councilor Kilgar. Okay.

1:55:101 hour, 55 minutes, 10

Sorry about the delay. I'm just seeking advice.

1:56:341 hour, 56 minutes, 34

Okay. Thank you, councilor Kilgar. I've sought advice and can confirm that accepted questions to council are on the

1:56:431 hour, 56 minutes, 43

agenda. If any questions have been rejected and not circulated, that will be rectified. Apologies.

1:56:541 hour, 56 minutes, 54

Council Leather

1:57:051 hour, 57 minutes, 5

point of information Mr. May I like a number of counselors in this chamber annually newly elected and I was

1:57:121 hour, 57 minutes, 12

wondering why we have questions that have been submitted at least a week possibly longer ago. Why why can't we have the answers?

1:57:311 hour, 57 minutes, 31

be with you in a minute.

1:58:131 hour, 58 minutes, 13

Okay. In answer to your question, council leather, it's within the constitution that questions to council will be provided within seven days of the meeting.

1:58:251 hour, 58 minutes, 25

Thank you, Mr. May.

1:58:301 hour, 58 minutes, 30

Okay, no further questions. I'll move on. The next item of business is to deal with petitions received under council procedure rule 9.

1:58:411 hour, 58 minutes, 41

We have received two petitions under council procedure rule 9. Petition one is from residents of South Dean

1:58:481 hour, 58 minutes, 48

regarding Landrith House. As per the council procedure rules, we will not debate the petition today. Councilor

1:58:571 hour, 58 minutes, 57

Rachel Taylor will present the petition in accordance with a process set out in the constitution and the petition will

1:59:041 hour, 59 minutes, 4

then be referred to the appropriate body. Councilor Taylor, please present the petition.

1:59:121 hour, 59 minutes, 12

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

1:59:151 hour, 59 minutes, 15

Residents of South Dean are calling on South Tinside Council to take urgent action to deal with the neglect and

1:59:211 hour, 59 minutes, 21

untidy site of Landrith House. This site has been a persistent hot spot of antisocial behavior and has a negative

1:59:291 hour, 59 minutes, 29

impact on our neighborhoods safety, appearance, and well-being. South Tinside Council has a power to act and

1:59:361 hour, 59 minutes, 36

we ask that these powers are used now to compel the site owner to make the site safe and tidy in the short term with the

1:59:441 hour, 59 minutes, 44

aim of demolition of the existing structure to make the area safe and restore it to a condition suitable for community use or redevelopment.

1:59:541 hour, 59 minutes, 54

All 96 signatures are residents of the BOA and residents of South Dean. Thank you.

2:00:012 hours, 1 secondThank you, Councelor Taylor. In accordance with the council procedure rules, the petition stands referred to the director of place strategy as the

2:00:102 hours, 10

appropriate body for further consideration.

2:00:142 hours, 14

Petition two concerns the future of Stanley's census. The petition reads as follows. To call upon South Tinside

2:00:232 hours, 23

Council and all relevant decision makers to protect Stanley centers and the services they provide.

2:00:322 hours, 32

Engage openly with families, staff and communities.

2:00:372 hours, 37

Consider the long-term impact on children and families before any decisions are made.

2:00:462 hours, 46

and explore all possible alternatives to closures or significant reductions in provision.

2:00:542 hours, 54

Since publication of the council agenda, revised petition figures have been received. The petition now contains

2:01:032 hours, 1 minute, 3

12,13 signatures in total, of which 8,000

2:01:112 hours, 1 minute, 11

of which 8,896 are from residents of the burough.

2:01:192 hours, 1 minute, 19

As per the council procedure rules, we will not debate the petition today in accordance with a process set out in the constitution.

2:01:30 2 hours, 1 minute, 30

The petition will then be referred to the appropriate body

2:01:44 2 hours, 1 minute, 44

in accordance with council procedure rule 9 to receive an update in respect of petition presented to Borough Council

2:01:53 2 hours, 1 minute, 53

on the 15th of January 2026.

2:01:58 2 hours, 1 minute, 58

Petition one, protect and preserve the green fields around Marsden Primary School.

2:02:07 2 hours, 2 minutes, 7

While the petition relates to a particular area of land, at the time of its presentation to full council, there

2:02:14 2 hours, 2 minutes, 14

was no planning application to which it could attach a representation.

2:02:20 2 hours, 2 minutes, 20

As a planning application relating to at least part of the land falling within the scope of the petition has since been

2:02:28 2 hours, 2 minutes, 28

received by the council. The petitioner has been given appropriate guidance

2:02:34 2 hours, 2 minutes, 34

about how to resubmit the petition or a revised petition so as to ensure

2:02:42 2 hours, 2 minutes, 42

that it is taken into account as part of the process to determine the application.

2:02:50 2 hours, 2 minutes, 50

This update has been provided within the papers.

2:02:59 2 hours, 2 minutes, 59

The next item of business is to receive motions under council procedure rule 10.

2:03:06 2 hours, 3 minutes, 6

There are two motions to be considered under rule 10 today. I will ask the proposer of the motion to move the

2:03:13 2 hours, 3 minutes, 13

motion and they may speak up to five minutes. I will then ask whether the motion is seconded. The seconder may

2:03:22 2 hours, 3 minutes, 22

speak for up to three minutes or reserve the right to speak later in the debate.

2:03:29 2 hours, 3 minutes, 29

The motion will then be open to debate by members who may each speak for up to three minutes and may move amendments.

2:03:39 2 hours, 3 minutes, 39

Any amendment must be relevant to the motion and only one amendment will be moved and discussed at any one time. If

2:03:48 2 hours, 3 minutes, 48

an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion and becomes the substantive

2:03:57 2 hours, 3 minutes, 57

motion to which any further amendments are moved. Motion one, residents first

2:04:04 2 hours, 4 minutes, 4

review of climate emergency declaration has been submitted by councilors S.

2:04:10 2 hours, 4 minutes, 10

Smith, Sena, Curry, Brown, and Rice. Councilor Steve Smith, please present your motion.

2:04:21 2 hours, 4 minutes, 21

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

2:04:23 2 hours, 4 minutes, 23

Um, as you've highlighted, uh, this motion is entitled residents first review of climate emergency declaration.

2:04:34 2 hours, 4 minutes, 34

The council notes that South Tinside Council declared a climate emergency on the 18th of July 2019.

2:04:45 2 hours, 4 minutes, 45

Since that time, climate related targets and policies have become part of the council's decision-making.

2:04:51 2 hours, 4 minutes, 51

The council's main responsibility is to deliver good local services, support vulnerable residents, and to provide value for money.

2:05:03 2 hours, 5 minutes, 3

Residents expect the council to focus on essential services, financial responsibility, and local priorities.

2:05:13 2 hours, 5 minutes, 13

The council believes that the council can continue to improve local environment without maintaining a

2:05:20 2 hours, 5 minutes, 20

climate emergency declaration. I'm just want to highlight that again. We can continue to improve the local

2:05:28 2 hours, 5 minutes, 28

environment without maintaining a climate emergency declaration.

2:05:35 2 hours, 5 minutes, 35

Spending decisions should be based on affordability, value for money, and clear benefits for South Pinesside residents.

2:05:46 2 hours, 5 minutes, 46

Core services, economic growth, and the cost of living should take priority over climate targets that are not statutory requirements.

2:05:57 2 hours, 5 minutes, 57

The council resolves to rescind the climate emergency declaration adopted on the 18th of July 2019

2:06:06 2 hours, 6 minutes, 6

and requests officers review any policies, targets, and spending commitments that were introduced as a

2:06:13 2 hours, 6 minutes, 13

result of the climate emergency declaration. report back to the council any financial or legal implications,

2:06:23 2 hours, 6 minutes, 23

opportunities to reduce costs and improve value for money, and recommend changes to effective policies and strategies.

2:06:31 2 hours, 6 minutes, 31

Ensure that future environmental initiatives are only pursued where they are practical,

2:06:38 2 hours, 6 minutes, 38

affordable, evidence-based, and deliver clear benefits for South Pineside residents.

2:06:45 2 hours, 6 minutes, 45

reaffirm the council's commitment to clean streets, parks, recycling, food protection, and other local environmental services. Thank you, Mr.

2:06:56 2 hours, 6 minutes, 56

Mayor.

2:06:58 2 hours, 6 minutes, 58

Thank you, councilor. Uh, is that seconded?

2:07:02 2 hours, 7 minutes, 2

I second the motion. Councilor Sanger second the motion.

2:07:18 2 hours, 7 minutes, 18

The motion is now open to debate by members. Do any members wish to speak, ask a question, speak on the motion, or move an amendment?

2:07:30 2 hours, 7 minutes, 30

I didn't see who got the hand up there first. So, we'll start with councilor Taylor.

2:07:38 2 hours, 7 minutes, 38

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

2:07:42 2 hours, 7 minutes, 42

I rise to oppose this motion. The climate emergency declaration was proposed by the Green Group in 2019 and

2:07:50 2 hours, 7 minutes, 50

supported by councilors across the chamber including the then Labor administration.

2:07:56 2 hours, 7 minutes, 56

That cross party decision recognized that climate change affects South Tinside through flooding, coastal

2:08:032 hours, 8 minutes, 3

erosion, rising energy costs and the health of our communities.

2:08:092 hours, 8 minutes, 9

My main concern with this motion is that it creates a false choice between climate action and delivering good local services.

2:08:182 hours, 8 minutes, 18

The reality is that climate action often is good local government. Reducing flood risk, improving energy efficiency,

2:08:262 hours, 8 minutes, 26

lowering running costs, improving air quality, and attracting external funding all benefit our residents while helping protect public finances.

2:08:372 hours, 8 minutes, 37

Much of what this motion asks for is already happening.

2:08:412 hours, 8 minutes, 41

The council already has to consider affordability, value for money, and evidence before spending public money.

2:08:492 hours, 8 minutes, 49

Every significant decision is subject to financial assessment, officer advice, and democratic scrutiny.

2:08:572 hours, 8 minutes, 57

The climate emergency declaration has never prevented prudent financial decision-making and there is no evidence that rescinding it would save money or improve services.

2:09:102 hours, 9 minutes, 10

What this motion would do is weaken South Tinid's leadership on issues that remain critically important. The

2:09:182 hours, 9 minutes, 18

declaration provides a clear commitment that environmental, financial, and social impacts are considered together when decisions are made. It supports

2:09:262 hours, 9 minutes, 26

long-term planning and demonstrates that we are serious about protecting our communities and preparing for future challenges.

2:09:342 hours, 9 minutes, 34

The Environment Agency estimates that by not investing in flood prevention, eight times the amount will have to be spent further down the line.

2:09:442 hours, 9 minutes, 44

That is a good example of how environmental action and financial responsibility go hand in hand.

2:09:512 hours, 9 minutes, 51

This council can continue to deliver excellent service, spend public money wisely, and also protect our environment at the same time. These goals are not in

2:09:59 2 hours, 9 minutes, 59

conflict. For those reasons, I ask members to reject this motion and retain South Tinside Council's climate emergency declaration. Thank you.

2:10:10 2 hours, 10 minutes, 10

Thank you, Councelor Taylor. Councelor Owen Palmer.

2:10:15 2 hours, 10 minutes, 15

Thank you, Mr. and thank you for that uh for for speaking actually uh councelor Taylor I agree with a lot of what

2:10:22 2 hours, 10 minutes, 22

councelor Taylor said but I mean to be quite honest I'm a bit perplexed about this motion because it says that you

2:10:29 2 hours, 10 minutes, 29

want to resend the um the the uh the climate emergency declaration but then you go on to say that you're going

2:10:37 2 hours, 10 minutes, 37

to do all the things that are going to protect neighbor uh na nature and look after uh the climate and provide habitats and improve the air quality

2:10:46 2 hours, 10 minutes, 46

and reduce flood risk. So I don't actually know whether you're just sort of making a point by saying this by saying, you know, reform nationally

2:10:53 2 hours, 10 minutes, 53

disagrees with climate change. We don't believe it's true. But then you go on to say that actually we do believe it's true because we're going to do all this to support nature. So I'm just a bit

2:11:02 2 hours, 11 minutes, 2

bamboozled really about why this this has um been so important that it's reform's first motion in this chamber.

2:11:10 2 hours, 11 minutes, 10

It just seems a little bit odd. Um, I'd be curious to know um what the uh the

2:11:17 2 hours, 11 minutes, 17

the opposite benches feel about things like renewable energy and uh wind power and flooding. I mean, obviously Kennedy's Corner down in Ty Do is

2:11:25 2 hours, 11 minutes, 25

regularly flooded. Um it it's it seems very odd to put an emotion like this when half of Europe's on fire and Scotland's on fire.

2:11:37 2 hours, 11 minutes, 37

I just I find it hard to believe that anyone in this day and age, given what's happening in the world, fails to believe that climate change is a real thing. And

2:11:45 2 hours, 11 minutes, 45

if it's not a real thing, then why are you getting rid of this if it is if it is a real thing? Thank you.

2:11:512 hours, 11 minutes, 51

Thank you, councilor Councilor Herbit.

2:11:562 hours, 11 minutes, 56

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Uh as we've all seen on the news, uh the recent heat waves have resulted in hospital

2:12:042 hours, 12 minutes, 4

declaring critical incidents, ambulance services facing record demand, transports being disrupted, schools

2:12:122 hours, 12 minutes, 12

closed, half of England is now in drought conditions, and firefighters are battling major fires across the country.

2:12:192 hours, 12 minutes, 19

Britain has entered a new climate reality, I mean reality. Extreme heat is no longer an occasional anomaly, but an

2:12:272 hours, 12 minutes, 27

increasingly defining feature of the UK's climate. 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 2002. England

2:12:352 hours, 12 minutes, 35

has experienced four major summer heat events since 2018 and the three warmest Junes on record have all occurred during this decade.

2:12:442 hours, 12 minutes, 44

It is already a public health emergency.

2:12:462 hours, 12 minutes, 46

It is estimated that 2,700 health related deaths occurred during the May and June heat waves in England and Wales. Heat related deaths could more

2:12:552 hours, 12 minutes, 55

than triple by 2050 without stronger adaption. And M councilor Smith talked about protecting the vulnerable. The most vulnerable to heat are the very young and the very old.

2:13:092 hours, 13 minutes, 9

The green economy is the fastest growing sector in the country. New analysis from the CBI reveals 105 billion sector

2:13:172 hours, 13 minutes, 17

generating high wage jobs across every UK nation and region.

2:13:242 hours, 13 minutes, 24

The transition to net zero is often framed as a cost on the economy, but growing evidence, including from the CBI, points to a different story. Net

2:13:332 hours, 13 minutes, 33

zero is already one of UK's most productive and geographically distributed industrial sectors. It supports 1.1 million full-time

2:13:412 hours, 13 minutes, 41

equivalent jobs. The sector is underpinned by more than two 23,500 businesses. For every one pound of the

2:13:492 hours, 13 minutes, 49

economy of the economic value created directly by net zero firms, a further 185 is generated across the wider UK

2:13:562 hours, 13 minutes, 56

economy. Mostly many of these jobs have been created in Southside particularly in the offshore wind industry and there are potentially thousand more jobs to

2:14:052 hours, 14 minutes, 5

come with the right encouragement. Now is not the right time to hold back on that encouragement and this motion sends out all the wrong signals to those industries.

2:14:132 hours, 14 minutes, 13

Looking at food security, three of the five worst UK harvests on record have now occurred since 2020 and this year's harvest looks like being pretty much the

2:14:222 hours, 14 minutes, 22

same. This is already driving up the cost of living prices with food prices going higher and domestically grown food

2:14:292 hours, 14 minutes, 29

uh will now become harder to come by mean increased reliance on imports.

2:14:352 hours, 14 minutes, 35

This leaves farmers asking actually if it's too financially risky to sow their crops. In a report by DERA, it was that

2:14:432 hours, 14 minutes, 43

our food supply faces catastrophic failure by 2030.

2:14:472 hours, 14 minutes, 47

Their report informed by intelligence agencies including MI5 and MI6 have assessed how environmental degradation could affect UK's national security.

2:14:582 hours, 14 minutes, 58

Looking at national security, a NATO report on climate change and global security.

2:15:022 hours, 15 minutes, 2

Excuse me, counselor Herbert. Would you mind summing up please?

2:15:062 hours, 15 minutes, 6

Right. Okay. Right. So we can see this is all born by burning fossil fuels.

2:15:142 hours, 15 minutes, 14

The climate change is moving north.

2:15:162 hours, 15 minutes, 16

We've just got a look at France and Spain to see what's coming our way.

2:15:192 hours, 15 minutes, 19

300,000 people being I ask you to sum up. So I'm afraid you'll have to if we ignore these

2:15:262 hours, 15 minutes, 26

signals. These are our peril of our future generations. Do you mind taking your seat our children and grandchildren? Thank you.

2:15:362 hours, 15 minutes, 36

Anyone else? Uh, counselor.

2:15:402 hours, 15 minutes, 40

Uh, sorry. Um, forgotten your Yeah, thank you.

2:15:522 hours, 15 minutes, 52

Yeah, I mean, um, I agree with the things that have already been said. I was going to say something similar but it I would just really ask you know have

2:16:012 hours, 16 minutes, 1 secondyou been watching the news? Um apart from anything this sends a message what we do in local government matters. Um as

2:16:102 hours, 16 minutes, 10

has been said there there are wildfires um all over the world but all over Europe. Europe is actually the fastest heating continent on the planet at the moment. Something that we cannot ignore.

2:16:212 hours, 16 minutes, 21

Um, and you know this is obviously due to fossil fuels. Um, and we also have fuel insecurity due to a lack of investment in renewables. Just have a

2:16:292 hours, 16 minutes, 29

look at the price of petrol. Um, as we all drive off on holiday at the minute, it's very expensive. Um, I would also ask how many people in here have spent

2:16:372 hours, 16 minutes, 37

time on the beach this week collecting neddles. I was there today released due to an overreiance on plastic, a lack of

2:16:442 hours, 16 minutes, 44

decent EU guidelines on how to transport the things. Um, dare I mention Brexit? I I won't, but the point's there. Um, and

2:16:532 hours, 16 minutes, 53

you know, and it it makes a point around plastic pollution and a really important reminder of the catastrophic effects of pollution on our coastline right here.

2:17:012 hours, 17 minutes, 1 secondThe worst disaster really in terms of nurturles that that have happened in the world is here. Um, so I don't think this is something that we can take lightly or rain back on right now. Thank you.

2:17:132 hours, 17 minutes, 13

Thank you, Council Men. Uh, anyone else?

2:17:162 hours, 17 minutes, 16

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um I agree with all uh speakers who have gone before on this side of the chamber. Um what I'd

2:17:232 hours, 17 minutes, 23

like to um kind of send out a message to to our communities that this happened in Sunderland as well. A very very similar

2:17:312 hours, 17 minutes, 31

motion um has very recently been passed by Sunderland Council and it does seem councilor Owens Palmer that this is just

2:17:382 hours, 17 minutes, 38

something to do. Um and it is following a particular reformled council trend. Um I think the exploration that is

2:17:462 hours, 17 minutes, 46

mentioned at point three should have been carried out before the rescinding was even suggested. It says to report

2:17:532 hours, 17 minutes, 53

back um on any financial or legal implications, opportunities to reduce costs and improve value for money and recommend changes to affected policies

2:18:022 hours, 18 minutes, 2

and strategies. Should this not have been done before you bring the motion to this council? Should the homework not have been carried out? Um I also feel that the uh point five is contradictory.

2:18:152 hours, 18 minutes, 15

You mention um flood protection. Well, if you don't know, fellgate flooded um in the uh you know kind of at the times

2:18:222 hours, 18 minutes, 22

Thunder Thursday occurred and we have a massive flood defense system put in place.

Tonight you've just agreed a local plan that is going to absolutely

2:18:312 hours, 18 minutes, 31

terrorize, and I I don't use that word lightly, the people of Felgate who have flooded uh and have been out of their homes for nearly two years um at a time.

2:18:392 hours, 18 minutes, 39

So I I think the the confirmation of what you're supporting um reaffirming at 0.5 can't be carried out if you resend

2:18:492 hours, 18 minutes, 49

um this particular declaration. And I'd like to know about affordability as well as as other colleagues have said, what cost is it and what are we going to do

2:18:572 hours, 18 minutes, 57

with the savings that it would appear that you're going to make but aren't cited? Thank you.

2:19:042 hours, 19 minutes, 4

Thank you, Councilor Gilgower. Councilor Blair.

2:19:082 hours, 19 minutes, 8

Thank you, Mayor. Um, I understand the frustration. Well, first of all, actually agree with everything that's been already said. Um, but I'd like to

2:19:152 hours, 19 minutes, 15

add to it as well. Um, I understand the frustration with de declarations that are not matched by practical delivery.

2:19:22 hours, 19 minutes, 22

Residents care about warmer homes, lower bills, clean beaches, protected green spaces, and reduced flood risk. Uh, but

2:19:29 hours, 19 minutes, 29

South T South Tinside is bounded by the River Tine and the North Sea. Climate resilience is not gesture politics here.

2:19:36 hours, 19 minutes, 36

Is about protecting people's homes, um, businesses and essential infrastructure from flooding, coastal erosion, and increasingly severe weather.

2:19:46 hours, 19 minutes, 46

Climate change also contributes to drought, food insecurity, instability and and the displacement of people.

2:19:54 hours, 19 minutes, 54

Anyone concerned about future migration pressures should recognize that tackling climate change is part of addressing these causes or the the causes, sorry.

2:20:02 hours, 20 minutes, 2

The fundamental problem with this motion is that it asks us to resend the declaration first and only afterwards review the effective policies, targets,

2:20:10 hours, 20 minutes, 10

spending commitments, and legal implications. That is the wrong way around.

2:20:16 hours, 20 minutes, 16

I would go further. Um, rescinding a framework before assessing the consequences is not evidence-led government is policymaking backwards and

2:20:25 hours, 20 minutes, 25

frankly it would be an incompetent way to govern.

2:20:30 hours, 20 minutes, 30

If this council genuinely believes in evidence-led decision-making, it should conduct the review first, establish what has worked, what has not, what it has

2:20:38 hours, 20 minutes, 38

cost, and what it has saved, what measurable framework or what measurable framework would would replace it.

2:20:47 hours, 20 minutes, 47

I'm open to reviewing how we approach climate action, but I cannot support removing the existing framework before we understand the consequences, and for

2:20:55 hours, 20 minutes, 55

that reason, I will be voting against the motion. Okay. Thank thank you councilor bear.

2:21:02 hours, 21 minutes, 2

Anybody else wish to speak?

2:21:05 hours, 21 minutes, 5

No. So I'll ask councilor Smith as the original proposer. Do you wish to reply to the debate?

2:21:15 hours, 21 minutes, 15

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I'll briefly reply.

2:21:172 hours, 21 minutes, 17

Um firstly um counselor Taylor mentions a cross party decisions were made in 2019

2:21:272 hours, 21 minutes, 27

um in relation to this. This council are very keen to embrace council colleagues

2:21:342 hours, 21 minutes, 34

um for from the variety of parties and I'm sure everybody agrees that the multi-party relationship uh has improved

2:21:412 hours, 21 minutes, 41

over the past 3 months um and we are keen to to to make that better. Um with regard to the climate um

2:21:512 hours, 21 minutes, 51

um resolution of the bill, this is a very very emotive topic. Um everybody has an

2:21:592 hours, 21 minutes, 59

opinion. Uh and Mr. Mayor, the councilors in this chamber chamber have been given notice of this um

2:22:102 hours, 22 minutes, 10

of this motion and have listened over number of years. I have no doubt to

2:22:172 hours, 22 minutes, 17

various arguments on on each side um and all the narratives that have come over the f the last five years. So in

2:22:242 hours, 22 minutes, 24

response to um all the all the um um counselors that we've heard, I would just say that let's just allow the

2:22:312 hours, 22 minutes, 31

democratic process to take place and just trust that the um the councilors have their own minds and their own um views on this. Thank you, Mr.

2:22:452 hours, 22 minutes, 45

Okay. Thank you, Counselor Smith. Um, is the motion agreed?

2:22:542 hours, 22 minutes, 54

Opinions, but you can't own the science and the facts. Uh, unequivocally, climate change exists and is driven by

2:23:012 hours, 23 minutes, 1 second mankind. And just to quote one uh of many bodies of authoritative bodies that

2:23:082 hours, 23 minutes, 8

say that it exists, NASA says that there's an unequivocal evidence that the earth is warming at an unprecedented

2:23:162 hours, 23 minutes, 16

rate and human activity is the principal cause. Okay. Thank you, counselor Herbert.

2:23:242 hours, 23 minutes, 24

Okay, we'll uh I'm I'm asking is the motion agreed?

2:23:30 2 hours, 23 minutes, 30

for dissenting voice. Yeah, I know. Named voice. Named voice. Okay.

2:23:46 2 hours, 23 minutes, 46

Okay, members. So, I will read each of your names alphabetically again, and I'd ask that you indicate clearly using the

2:23:55 2 hours, 23 minutes, 55

microphone as to whether you the motion is agreed or not. Okay, thank you. So,

2:24:03 2 hours, 24 minutes, 3

Councilor Bar agreed.

2:24:07 2 hours, 24 minutes, 7

Blair, agreed.

2:24:10 2 hours, 24 minutes, 10

Councilor Brown, agreed.

2:24:13 2 hours, 24 minutes, 13

Councilor Clifton, agreed.

2:24:16 2 hours, 24 minutes, 16

Councilor Curry, agreed.

2:24:19 2 hours, 24 minutes, 19

Councilor Diamond, agreed.

2:24:21 2 hours, 24 minutes, 21

Councilor Elsenda, agreed.

2:24:24 2 hours, 24 minutes, 24

Councilor Fioni, agreed.

2:24:27 2 hours, 24 minutes, 27

Councilor Fenick, agreed. Councilor Ford, not agreed.

2:24:32 2 hours, 24 minutes, 32

Councilor Fox, agreed.

2:24:35 2 hours, 24 minutes, 35

Councilor Herbert, not agreed.

2:24:37 2 hours, 24 minutes, 37

Councilor Humphrey, agreed.

2:24:40 2 hours, 24 minutes, 40

Councilor Jones, agreed.

2:24:43 2 hours, 24 minutes, 43

Councilor Kilgawa, not agreed.

2:24:45 2 hours, 24 minutes, 45

Councilor Leather, not agreed.

2:24:47 2 hours, 24 minutes, 47

Councilor Ling, agreed.

2:24:50 2 hours, 24 minutes, 50

Councilor Mackens, agreed.

2:24:53 2 hours, 24 minutes, 53
Counselor Madison, agreed. Counselor McHune not agreed.

2:24:59 2 hours, 24 minutes, 59
Counselor Medcov agreed.

2:25:01 2 hours, 25 minutes, 1 second Counselor Mau agreed.

2:25:04 2 hours, 25 minutes, 4
Counselor Mcquith not agreed. Counselor Newman agreed.

2:25:09 2 hours, 25 minutes, 9
Counselor Oliver agreed.

2:25:13 2 hours, 25 minutes, 13
Counselor Orton agreed.

2:25:16 2 hours, 25 minutes, 16
Counselor Owens Palmer not agreed.

2:25:19 2 hours, 25 minutes, 19
Counselor Perry agreed.

2:25:22 2 hours, 25 minutes, 22
Counselor Pitik agreed. Counselor Ramen, not agreed.

2:25:27 2 hours, 25 minutes, 27
Counselor Rice, agreed.

2:25:30 2 hours, 25 minutes, 30
Counselor Richardson, agreed.

2:25:33 2 hours, 25 minutes, 33
Counselor Ross, agree.

2:25:36 2 hours, 25 minutes, 36
Counselor Royal, agreed.

2:25:38 2 hours, 25 minutes, 38
Counselor A. Smith, agreed.

2:25:41 2 hours, 25 minutes, 41
Counselor M. Smith, agreed.

2:25:44 2 hours, 25 minutes, 44
Counselor S. Smith, agreed.

2:25:46 2 hours, 25 minutes, 46
Counselor Ste, agreed.

2:25:49 2 hours, 25 minutes, 49
Counselor Stonehouse, not agreed. Counselor Sebens agreed.

2:25:56 2 hours, 25 minutes, 56
Counselor Taylor, not agreed.

2:26:00 2 hours, 26 minutes Counselor Thomas, agreed.

2:26:03 2 hours, 26 minutes, 3
Counselor Tulie, agreed.

2:26:06 2 hours, 26 minutes, 6

Councilor Turbo, agreed.

2:26:082 hours, 26 minutes, 8

Councilor We agreed.

2:26:112 hours, 26 minutes, 11

Councilor Heidi Wilder, agreed.

2:26:142 hours, 26 minutes, 14

Thank you, members. Can I just have a moment?

2:27:162 hours, 27 minutes, 16

Okay. The result of the vote is 35 agreed, 11 not agreed. I therefore declare the motion carried.

2:27:332 hours, 27 minutes, 33

Sorry, you're not allowed to speak from the gallery. All right, please leave.

2:27:382 hours, 27 minutes, 38

Yeah, please leave. You're disturbing the debate. It's up to councilors have spoken, not you.

2:27:542 hours, 27 minutes, 54

Please leave the chamber.

2:27:592 hours, 27 minutes, 59

Councilor Odin, did you want to say something?

2:28:052 hours, 28 minutes, 5

I'll allow it. Yeah, I agree.

2:28:222 hours, 28 minutes, 22

Motion two, nature recovery, environmental resilience in South Tine site has been submitted by councilors

2:28:312 hours, 28 minutes, 31

Taylor, Leatherford, Blair, Stonehouse, Macau, McQue, Herbit, Odin, and Ramen.

2:28:382 hours, 28 minutes, 38

Councilor Taylor, please present your motion.

2:28:422 hours, 28 minutes, 42

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And based on opposition really want to help the environment, I'm hoping everyone's going to get behind this motion.

2:28:502 hours, 28 minutes, 50

I'm pleased to move this motion on before and before I begin I want to make one thing clear. This isn't a Green Party motion in the traditional sense.

2:29:002 hours, 29 minutesIt's a motion about common sense. It's about protecting our budget spending public money wisely and leaving South Tinside in a better condition than we found it.

2:29:112 hours, 29 minutes, 11

Whatever political party we represent, every one of us wants cleaner neighborhoods, safer communities, healthier residents, and value for taxpayers money.

2:29:222 hours, 29 minutes, 22

That's exactly what this motion seeks to achieve.

2:29:272 hours, 29 minutes, 27

Our national environment is one of South Tinside's greatest assets. From our award-winning coastline and parks to our

2:29:342 hours, 29 minutes, 34

woodlands, rivers, a lotments, and local nature reserves, these places improve people's quality of life every single

2:29:412 hours, 29 minutes, 41

day. But they also save us money. Trees and green spaces also help absorb rain

2:29:482 hours, 29 minutes, 48

water before it overwhelms drains. As we see more intense rainfall due to changing weather patterns, these natural

2:29:552 hours, 29 minutes, 55

flood defenses become increasingly important. Nature is often cheaper than concrete. They are health benefits too.

2:30:022 hours, 30 minutes, 2

People with access to quality green spaces are generally more active experience lower levels of stress and enjoy better wellbe mental well-being.

2:30:112 hours, 30 minutes, 11

Healthier communities place less demand on public services over time.

2:30:182 hours, 30 minutes, 18

This isn't just good for the environment, it's good for our finances.

2:30:222 hours, 30 minutes, 22

The Woodland Trust estimates that a mature tree can provide hundreds of pounds worth of environmental benefits each year through cleaner air, absorbing

2:30:312 hours, 30 minutes, 31

carbon, intercepting rainfall, and cooling urban areas.

2:30:362 hours, 30 minutes, 36

These are services that nature provides free of charge. If we lose those natural assets assets, replacing them with

2:30:442 hours, 30 minutes, 44

engineering solutions often costs far more.

2:30:482 hours, 30 minutes, 48

Importantly, this motion is modest. It does not ask the council to spend millions of pounds. It does not create

2:30:552 hours, 30 minutes, 55

another committee. It does not establish another layer of bureaucracy. Instead, it asks us to continue considering

2:31:032 hours, 31 minutes, 3

nature and biodiversity when making decisions, continue working with community groups and volunteers, and

2:31:112 hours, 31 minutes, 11

continue supporting progress openly through our existing council processes.

2:31:182 hours, 31 minutes, 18

Those are sensible requests.

2:31:212 hours, 31 minutes, 21

Across South Tinside, we already see the difference volunteers make by planting trees, restoring habitats,

2:31:292 hours, 31 minutes, 29

looking after parks, and protecting wildlife. This motion recognizes that partnerships between the council and the communities.

2:31:372 hours, 31 minutes, 37

I also know that councils in this chamber will have different political views.

2:31:432 hours, 31 minutes, 43

Some will focus on environment, some on public finances, some on public health, some on supporting local communities.

2:31:512 hours, 31 minutes, 51

The good news is this motion supports every one of those priorities.

2:31:562 hours, 31 minutes, 56

The motion is not about telling residents how to live their lives. It's about get it's about being good custodians of the burough we have all

2:32:032 hours, 32 minutes, 3

been elected to serve. Our responsibility is to think beyond the next few months and consider the legacy we leave behind.

2:32:142 hours, 32 minutes, 14

Will future generations inherit cleaner rivers or more pollution?

2:32:202 hours, 32 minutes, 20

More trees are fewer, healthier wildlife or declining biodiversity.

2:32:262 hours, 32 minutes, 26

Neighborhoods that are more resilient to flooding or communities face everincreasing repair bills. Those are choices we make through the decision we take in this chamber.

2:32:372 hours, 32 minutes, 37

Tonight, we have an opportunity to support a motion that is practical, evidence-based, and financially responsible.

2:32:462 hours, 32 minutes, 46

It protects our natural environment. It supports residents health and well-being. It can help reduce future costs. And it strengthens the resilience of South Tinside for years to come.

2:32:592 hours, 32 minutes, 59

I genuinely hope this is something we can all unite behind regardless of political party because caring for the

2:33:062 hours, 33 minutes, 6

place we all call home should never be a political issue. I therefore ask every council in this chamber to please support this motion. Thank you.

2:33:172 hours, 33 minutes, 17

Thank you councilor Taylor. Is that seconded? Seconded by council.

2:33:252 hours, 33 minutes, 25

It's okay. Speaker, the motion is now open to debate by members. Do any members wish to ask a

2:33:332 hours, 33 minutes, 33

question, speak on the motion, or move an amendment? Councilor Leather.

2:33:382 hours, 33 minutes, 38

Mr. Mayor, I'd like to speak to the motion. Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

2:33:442 hours, 33 minutes, 44

Uh, one of our residents who recently moved here from down south commented to a colleague that South Teside's natural environment is worse than London's.

2:33:542 hours, 33 minutes, 54

Just last week, we witnessed firsthand an environmental disaster on the river Tine. It resulted in approximately 25

2:34:022 hours, 34 minutes, 2

tons of plastic needles being spilled into the water and washing up on our coastline.

2:34:082 hours, 34 minutes, 8

Successive governments and local authorities have concentrated on economic growth and destroyed our green and pleasant land.

2:34:162 hours, 34 minutes, 16

We are merely custodians or tenants of planet Earth, our home. I think that historians will look back and conclude that we've done a very poor job to date.

2:34:282 hours, 34 minutes, 28

The capitalist economic car is heading for the cliff edge, but instead of hitting the brakes and turning round, the accelerator is being applied. The

2:34:372 hours, 34 minutes, 37

results can be seen every day in the news. According to last week's Sunday observer, forest fires in Spain and France have resulted in approximately

2:34:462 hours, 34 minutes, 46

250,000 people being evacuated and thousands of acres burnt.

2:34:512 hours, 34 minutes, 51

Privatized water companies are allowed to pollute our water. Our natural fauna, insects, birds, and animals are facing declining numbers, if not extinction.

2:35:022 hours, 35 minutes, 2

And what are most politicians who are in power doing? Like the proverbial Nero, they are merely watching whilst Rome, or

2:35:112 hours, 35 minutes, 11

should I say Earth, burns? This is not good enough. Since the council adopted the climate emergency declaration seven

2:35:182 hours, 35 minutes, 18

years ago, I think it's fair to say our environment has deteriorated.

2:35:242 hours, 35 minutes, 24

My colleague said that uh the Imperial College London has said there have been approximately 2,700 extra deaths in

2:35:322 hours, 35 minutes, 32

England and Wales. Another approximately 13 million people face in the UK a long-term risk of coastal flooding.

2:35:402 hours, 35 minutes, 40

Internationally, the figure is considerably higher. So if the status quo continues, the number of economic migrants seeking shelter in the UK is

2:35:492 hours, 35 minutes, 49

bound to increase over the coming years and stopping the boats will be the least of our problems. Globing global warming

2:35:572 hours, 35 minutes, 57

is not an urban myth. It is a scientific fact. The longer we as an interdependent international community delay in

2:36:062 hours, 36 minutes, 6

addressing the problems, the more the costly final bill we be will become. We need to embrace our natural environment,

2:36:142 hours, 36 minutes, 14

support sustainable economic growth and reduce our carbon footprints. Thank you, Mr. May.

2:36:222 hours, 36 minutes, 22

Thank you, councilor. Anybody else? Councilor Gilgar.

2:36:272 hours, 36 minutes, 27

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And thank you um to yourselves for bringing this motion.

2:36:302 hours, 36 minutes, 30

It is really welcomed. Um, I hope Reform UK do support it on behalf of the members that have brought this motion, but I honestly don't know how you could.

2:36:412 hours, 36 minutes, 41

We've just voted on or not the local plan which has decimated or will decimate Felgate Green Belt. It will

2:36:492 hours, 36 minutes, 49

cause flooding. It's very I think I'm speaking Mr. Mayor. Um, it will cause flooding. There is very great risk of

2:36:582 hours, 36 minutes, 58

that. Um we've also or reform UK have also rescinded the climate uh declaration of emergency this evening as

2:37:06 2 hours, 37 minutes, 6

well on the very first uh motion to this council. I would just ask as well what would have happened if we didn't have

2:37:13 2 hours, 37 minutes, 13

that declaration. We've already heard that it has worsened the situation has worsened and is very likely to worsen

2:37:21 2 hours, 37 minutes, 21

without specific focus on it. It can only be even more serious as as we can see. So I do hope you endorse it, but I

2:37:28 2 hours, 37 minutes, 28

don't know how you can given what you've done this evening. Thank you.

2:37:32 2 hours, 37 minutes, 32

Thank you. Councilor Kilgar, did I see your hand up? Councilor Pet, I'm sorry. Just councilor Taylor, I'm

2:37:39 2 hours, 37 minutes, 39

just a little bit confused in relation to what additional measures will this motion bring that's not already in place.

2:37:49 2 hours, 37 minutes, 49

I can't stand up. I'm too tall.

2:37:53 2 hours, 37 minutes, 53

Just as a a point of information, nobody's standing up this evening.

2:37:58 2 hours, 37 minutes, 58

Yeah, I think one of the I think one of the problems is that um some people are quite tall and then they can't speak into the microphone which is why I'm

2:38:07 2 hours, 38 minutes, 7

which was Yeah, I agree with you that um the protocol is to stand but I know that

2:38:14 2 hours, 38 minutes, 14

um you know some of the taller members uh there are complaints that uh they can't be heard because they're too far away from the microphone which is why

2:38:22 2 hours, 38 minutes, 22

I've been allowing it tonight but uh we'll see if we can rectify that in the future. Okay.

2:38:30 2 hours, 38 minutes, 30

A matter of constitution and it's what it is. Yeah. All right.

2:38:40 2 hours, 38 minutes, 40

All right.

2:38:41 2 hours, 38 minutes, 41

Okay. Okay. I need to shut this. I need to shut this down. Okay. Can you take this? Can you take your seat council office?

2:38:48 2 hours, 38 minutes, 48

We've accepted your your point and I've answered it and I've I've told you why I've been allowing it tonight. I am well

2:38:552 hours, 38 minutes, 55

aware that you should stand, but there have been complaints about uh people not being able to hear as well.

2:39:022 hours, 39 minutes, 2

So, it's a bit of a tradeoff really, but we'll try and get that right next time. Okay. Thank you.

2:39:112 hours, 39 minutes, 11

Anybody else? Sorry. Yeah. Yeah. Councilor Oton.

2:39:162 hours, 39 minutes, 16

Thanks very much, Mr. Mayor. I will stand up and I won't use the microphone.

2:39:202 hours, 39 minutes, 20

I need to just a couple of points. Oh, sorry.

2:39:272 hours, 39 minutes, 27

Yeah, turn it on. I'm sure they're going to hear me, right? Uh very very simple.

2:39:322 hours, 39 minutes, 32

I don't understand why this motion is forward. We've already agreed that most of these items are very very beneficial.

2:39:392 hours, 39 minutes, 39

There's no two ways about that. But it's where the council therefore resolves to reaffirm this, continue that. the

2:39:482 hours, 39 minutes, 48

there'll be a question for councilor Taylor answer but I just don't understand what new this is bringing to it you know I think the climate

2:39:562 hours, 39 minutes, 56

emergency situation has brought a lot of this out and has has made all these measures come in but I don't understand

2:40:032 hours, 40 minutes, 3

what we're trying to change as for the um the expansion on the motion about I I don't understand how our activities

2:40:122 hours, 40 minutes, 12

where the climate's concerned not see nothing about changing maritime law and stopping ships crashing. Nothing at all

2:40:192 hours, 40 minutes, 19

in there. So perhaps we could get answers to those things. Thanks very much, Mr. Mayor.

2:40:242 hours, 40 minutes, 24

Thank you, Councilman. Anybody else wish to speak? Nobody over here. Councilor Ford.

2:40:332 hours, 40 minutes, 33

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um I I welcome the point that was made by the um proposal of the previous uh motion about cross

2:40:412 hours, 40 minutes, 41

party working. Um this is a key example of where we could work together on this and I think the key points about um the

2:40:512 hours, 40 minutes, 51

what the resolution that we're calling for is to encourage the use of evidence, innovation and less environmentally

2:40:582 hours, 40 minutes, 58

harmful technologies and practices that reduce pollution. So it's asking for more um more use of of of this evidence.

2:41:072 hours, 41 minutes, 7

And um then the last point is about requesting that progress on all this work is reported to us. So I I honestly

2:41:152 hours, 41 minutes, 15

don't think there's anything controversial about this motion. I think it's it's it's encouraging us to do better on the things that we're already doing.

2:41:242 hours, 41 minutes, 24

You councilor Ford, anyone else? Yeah, council current.

2:41:332 hours, 41 minutes, 33

Thank you. It was just a quick point on your ships crashing. Um, I just wanted to clarify that the issue is that the

2:41:402 hours, 41 minutes, 40

the way that these plastic nerdles are actually transported um following EU guidelines, they're insealed containers

2:41:482 hours, 41 minutes, 48

that if there is something like that happens, they are very unlikely to spill out into the sea. Whereas what's happened at Port of Tine is that we're

2:41:552 hours, 41 minutes, 55

not under those guidelines. They're held in bags. They just went everywhere. So, you know, it's it's Port of Time. So, it's important that we all understand

2:42:042 hours, 42 minutes, 4

what is going on here and that we do what we can as a local council to try and stop these things from happening again. Thank you.

2:42:122 hours, 42 minutes, 12

Thank you, councilor. Uh, councilor Blair, did you want to speak? Uh, yes. Thanks, M. Thanks, Mr. Mayor.

2:42:182 hours, 42 minutes, 18

Um, yeah, I'd just like to Yeah, thanks for those points. Um, and also for your um your sobering summary of of what's

2:42:262 hours, 42 minutes, 26

going on, council lever, but I'd actually like to make a correction. It's not up to 25 tons of Nerdles. uh thanks to port time drip feeding information um

2:42:342 hours, 42 minutes, 34

as seems to be the habit of these kind of um uh in these kind of incidents by these uh big uh companies it was two

2:42:412 hours, 42 minutes, 41

containers so it's actually could be considerably more than 25 tons it's 25 tons per container um and the other

2:42:492 hours, 42 minutes, 49

point there as well council actually um it's it's voluntary guidance says you should actually transport these needles

2:42:562 hours, 42 minutes, 56

below deck if they had followed that voluntary guidance we wouldn't be in this mess to start with. Um right back to the motion though. Thanks um

2:43:042 hours, 43 minutes, 4

councilor Taylor for bringing that. Um I want to focus on why protecting our natural environment also helps create a stronger and more successful South

2:43:122 hours, 43 minutes, 12

Tinside. Uh clean beaches, attractive parks, thriving wildlife, um treelined streets, and well-maintained green spaces make this burough somewhere

2:43:212 hours, 43 minutes, 21

people are proud to call home. They support tourism, local businesses, and the health and well-being of our residents.

2:43:292 hours, 43 minutes, 29

Protecting nature can reduce longerterm costs, too. Healthy habitats can improve air quality, reduce flood risk, and make

2:43:362 hours, 43 minutes, 36

our communities more resilient. The recent Nurdle spill has shown why environmental resilience cannot simply simply be something written into

2:43:432 hours, 43 minutes, 43

strategy. Our rivers, beaches, and coastline have been affected. Uh while volunteers, and community groups have

2:43:502 hours, 43 minutes, 50

stepped forward because they understood the urgency of the situation. Well, I do not believe the overall response has shown the urgency an incident of this

2:43:582 hours, 43 minutes, 58

scale required. Um, if you want to go take a look at the river after this, guys, you'll see plenty of needles just lying there everywhere still waiting to be picked up.

2:44:082 hours, 44 minutes, 8

South Tinside is intrinsically linked to its waterways. The Tine and the North Sea are part of our identity, our economy, our history, and our future.

2:44:172 hours, 44 minutes, 17

We need clear leadership, specialist equipment, properly coordinated volunteer support, and the ability to respond immediately when pollution

2:44:242 hours, 44 minutes, 24

occurs, not days later after it's already spread.

2:44:282 hours, 44 minutes, 28

There must also be clear application of the poller pays principle so local taxpayers and volunteers are not left carrying the cost and responsibility for

2:44:372 hours, 44 minutes, 37

pollution caused by others. Our environmental commitments must also be measurable. We should be able to report

2:44:442 hours, 44 minutes, 44

how much habitat has been restored, how many trees have been planted and survived, whether pollution is reducing, and whether residents have been have

2:44:522 hours, 44 minutes, 52

better access to good quality green and blue spaces.

2:44:562 hours, 44 minutes, 56

Supporting this motion should also mean learning from the Nerdle incident through a full review of the response, what worked, what was delayed, and what

2:45:032 hours, 45 minutes, 3

capacity South Tinside needs to respond more quickly in the future. This motion is about more than wildlife.

2:45:102 hours, 45 minutes, 10

is about creating an attractive, resilient, and forward-looking borough and leaving a positive legacy for our children and grandchildren. That is

2:45:182 hours, 45 minutes, 18

something I hope every councilor regardless of political party can support. Thank you.

2:45:242 hours, 45 minutes, 24

Thank you, Councilor Blair. Any more?

2:45:302 hours, 45 minutes, 30

No. Uh so, uh Councilor Taylor, uh do you want to reply to the debate?

2:45:372 hours, 45 minutes, 37

Yes. Thank you, Mr. May. Thank you for everyone's um comments. It's just you know obviously we've got a great deal of responsibility as councilors and

2:45:462 hours, 45 minutes, 46

bringing motions to council even when it's some of the things are things will ensure we'll continue. I understand that and maybe it'll be it'll be

2:45:542 hours, 45 minutes, 54

important for if I read out because it's only a few lines may if I may to our people at home. So what the what the AM greens are asking for is that the

2:46:022 hours, 46 minutes, 2

council therefore resolves to reaffirm its commitment to protecting and enhancing South Tinsid's natural environment. Continue supporting

2:46:112 hours, 46 minutes, 11

practical measures that resolve biodiversity, protect trees, improve habitats, and expand access to highquality green and blue spaces.

2:46:20 2 hours, 46 minutes, 20

Ensure environmental considerations continue to inform council policies, regeneration projects, procurement, and

2:46:27 2 hours, 46 minutes, 27

major investment decisions where appropriate. And lastly, encourage the use of evidence, innovation, and less

2:46:35 2 hours, 46 minutes, 35

environmentally harmful technologies and practice that reduce pollution, improve resources, efficiency, and strengthen the bur's resilience. continue working

2:46:44 2 hours, 46 minutes, 44

with residents, schools, community groups, environment organizations, and local businesses to support nature recovery across South Tinside and

2:46:51 2 hours, 46 minutes, 51

request that progress on biodiversity, habitat restoration, and environmental improvements continues to be reported through the council's existing governance and important arrangements.

2:47:01 2 hours, 47 minutes, 1 second This is all to make sure it's at the forefront of everyone's mind. And once it's agreed, it's full by council's emotion, it become it's like the top

2:47:10 2 hours, 47 minutes, 10

thing, the top agenda for officers to do and everything. and it gets a lot more support and it becomes like a top priority. So that's why we need to re reaffirm these things, make sure they

2:47:18 2 hours, 47 minutes, 18

continue things don't go back a step and that we push forward and as community leaders we are up there you know leading the way because in this respected

2:47:27 2 hours, 47 minutes, 27

position we need to be doing that in the midst of a ecological emergency. So thank you hope that

2:47:34 2 hours, 47 minutes, 34

thank you councilor Taylor. So no more right. So, is the motion agreed?

2:47:45 2 hours, 47 minutes, 45

Disagree. Disagree. Not agreed. Not agreed. Descending voices. Beg your pardon?

2:47:54 2 hours, 47 minutes, 54

Right. Okay. Do you have support? Yes. Okay. Thank you.

2:48:01 2 hours, 48 minutes, 1

o members, I'll read out each of your names for the last time this evening alphabetically, and I'd ask that you please indicate clearly using your

2:48:08 2 hours, 48 minutes, 8

microphone as to whether the motion is agreed or not agreed.

2:48:14 2 hours, 48 minutes, 14

Councilor Bar disagree.

2:48:192 hours, 48 minutes, 19

Councilor Blair, agree.

2:48:232 hours, 48 minutes, 23

Councilor Brown, not agreed.

2:48:262 hours, 48 minutes, 26

Councilor Clifton, not agreed. Councilor Curry, not agreed.

2:48:312 hours, 48 minutes, 31

Councilor Diamond, not agreed.

2:48:342 hours, 48 minutes, 34

Councilor Elsenda, not agreed.

2:48:382 hours, 48 minutes, 38

Councilor Fioni, not agreed.

2:48:402 hours, 48 minutes, 40

Councilor Fenick, not agreed.

2:48:422 hours, 48 minutes, 42

Councilor Ford, agreed.

2:48:462 hours, 48 minutes, 46

Councilor Fox, not agreed.

2:48:482 hours, 48 minutes, 48

Councilor Herbert, agreed.

2:48:512 hours, 48 minutes, 51

Councilor Humphrey, agreed.

2:48:542 hours, 48 minutes, 54

Councilor Jones, not agreed.

2:48:572 hours, 48 minutes, 57

Councilor Kilgawa, agreed.

2:48:592 hours, 48 minutes, 59

Councilor Leather, agreed.

2:49:022 hours, 49 minutes, 2

Councilor Ling, not agreed.

2:49:042 hours, 49 minutes, 4

Councilor Mackens, not agreed.

2:49:072 hours, 49 minutes, 7

Councilor Madison, not agreed.

2:49:092 hours, 49 minutes, 9

Councilor McHune, agreed.

2:49:132 hours, 49 minutes, 13

Councilor Medco, not agreed.

2:49:162 hours, 49 minutes, 16

Councilor Mau, not agreed.

2:49:182 hours, 49 minutes, 18
Counselor McQue, agreed.

2:49:212 hours, 49 minutes, 21
Counselor Newman, not agreed. Counselor Oliver abstain.

2:49:272 hours, 49 minutes, 27
Counselor Orton not agreed.

2:49:312 hours, 49 minutes, 31
Counselor Owens Palmer agreed. Counselor Perry not agreed.

2:49:382 hours, 49 minutes, 38
Counselor Pitik not agreed.

2:49:412 hours, 49 minutes, 41
Counselor Ramen agreed.

2:49:442 hours, 49 minutes, 44
Counselor Rice not agreed.

2:49:472 hours, 49 minutes, 47
Counselor Richardson not agreed. Counselor Rossing.

2:49:542 hours, 49 minutes, 54
Counselor Royal not agreed.

2:49:582 hours, 49 minutes, 58
Counselor A. Smith not agreed.

2:50:012 hours, 50 minutes, 1 secondCounselor M. Smith not agreed.

2:50:042 hours, 50 minutes, 4
Council S. Smith not agreed.

2:50:062 hours, 50 minutes, 6
Counselor Steed, not agreed.

2:50:102 hours, 50 minutes, 10
Counselor Stonehouse, agreed.

2:50:132 hours, 50 minutes, 13
Counselor Svenger, not agreed. Counselor Taylor, agreed.

2:50:202 hours, 50 minutes, 20
Counselor Thomas, not agreed.

2:50:242 hours, 50 minutes, 24
Counselor Tulie, not agreed.

2:50:272 hours, 50 minutes, 27
Counselor Turbo, not agreed.

2:50:302 hours, 50 minutes, 30
Counselor We not agreed.

2:50:332 hours, 50 minutes, 33
Counselor Heidi Wilder, not agreed.

2:50:362 hours, 50 minutes, 36
Thank you, members. Just just top the figures up. So, one moment, please.

2:50:44 2 hours, 50 minutes, 44

Surely people can go home after.

2:51:13 2 hours, 51 minutes, 13

Yeah. years ago. Neut.

2:51:41 2 hours, 51 minutes, 41

Okay. The result of the vote is 11 agree, 33 disagree, and two abstentions.

2:51:53 2 hours, 51 minutes, 53

So the motion is not agreed.

2:52:06 2 hours, 52 minutes, 6

Okay, colleagues, thank you. Uh that concludes the business of council today and I wish you all a very good evening.

Sync to video time