



South Tyneside Green Party

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Planning Committee on 15.07.24 - Statement from South Tyneside Green Party

The South Tyneside Green Party wishes to express its unwavering support for our councillors and their commitment to upholding democratic principles within the planning committee. Recent events, particularly the discussion surrounding the DMMO application, have highlighted serious concerns regarding the conduct of the committee's proceedings.

We are deeply troubled by the chair's insinuation that members who opposed the outcome acted unlawfully. Such statements not only undermine the integrity of our democratic processes but also expose our councillors to unwarranted slander and abuse. This is unacceptable and sets a dangerous precedent for how dissenting voices are treated within our governing bodies.

The Green Party stands firmly against any implication that councillors must vote as instructed. Our council's PROUD values emphasise the importance of open discussion and democratic decision-making. We believe that each member must be free to represent the interests of their community without fear of personal liability or reputational damage.

Green Party councillors vote with due regard to the law and take allegations of predetermination very seriously, and we are particularly concerned by the potential personal links those making such accusations have to planning applicants and local political groups. Our councillors are committed to making decisions based on the merits of each case, ensuring that their actions are always in compliance with legal and ethical standards.

The highly politicised atmosphere within the planning committee is creating a toxic environment. It is vital that our councillors can perform their duties as community representatives and volunteers without facing threats or intimidation.

We call upon South Tyneside Council to take immediate and decisive action to address the statement made by the chair. It is crucial to restore public confidence in our democratic processes and ensure that all members are supported and protected. The Green Party remains committed to fostering a transparent and fair decision-making environment for the betterment of our community.

We stand in solidarity with our councillors and urge the council to uphold the principles of democracy and integrity that are foundational to our collective work.

