

**COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2023
NOTICE OF MOTION**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 53-60

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
160	Councillor M Storey	Councillor J Walker	<p>FAIRTRADE MOTION</p> <p>Middlesbrough achieved Fairtrade Town Status in 2007. The Council reaffirms its support for Fairtrade and recognises the role of the Middlesbrough Fairtrade Group in promoting Fairtrade in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council remains fully committed to using Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee and sugar, in meetings, at events and in public Council venues. Furthermore, the Council will continue to promote and participate in the town's programmes of Fairtrade events and activities.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council also recognises the role Fairtrade plays in assisting producers in developing countries to address the impacts of climate change, for example through tree planting and water conservation schemes.</p>
161	Councillor Furness	Councillor Gavigan	<p>MOTION AGAINST THE CLOSURE OF MIDDLESBROUGH TRAIN STATION'S TICKET OFFICE</p> <p>Council notes with dismay the news that the Department for Transport (DfT) and the thirteen train companies have announced plans to close almost all staffed ticket offices in England, totalling nearly 1000, following changes to the Government's guidance relating to ticket office opening hours and operation.</p> <p>Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in Middlesbrough and support passenger safety, security and accessibility. Having a central place in the station for people requiring advice and assistance provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff and acts as a point of safety for passengers.</p> <p>Not all are able to use ticket vending machines or online ticketing platforms. Many passengers require human assistance to successfully purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets which is common owing to the complex railway ticketing system. Ticket</p>

		<p>office staff have a wealth of knowledge which ensures that customers get appropriate advice and the cheapest fare for their whole journey.</p> <p>Council is particularly concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect older passengers and those with disabilities who use Middlesbrough train station, as well as those with poor IT skills and those whose first language is not English. Council also notes the possible implications for employment, believing that the closure of ticket offices could lead to a de-staffing of rail stations, thus raising unemployment in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Council believes the staffed ticket office at Middlesbrough station positively contributes to the appeal of travelling by train in and out of Middlesbrough. Therefore, the loss of the ticket office will make train travel in and out of Middlesbrough less appealing, which may push people towards travelling by high-pollution methods such as private road vehicle and negatively hurt our local economy if people chose not to travel at all as a result.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requests the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Transport, expressing Middlesbrough Council's opposition to the closure of the staffed rail ticket office at Middlesbrough train station.• Requests the Chief Executive writes to Transpennine Express, who manage Middlesbrough Station, expressing Middlesbrough Council's opposition to the closure of the staffed ticket office at Middlesbrough train station.
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