

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor I. Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Francis	Miller, F	Speding
	Atkinson	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Tate
	Ball	Gibson, P	Mordey	Thompson
	Bell	Gofton	Oliver	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Heron	Padgett	Trueman, H.
	Bonallie	Howe	Porthouse	Turton
	Copeland	Jackson	Price	Tye
	Curran	Kelly	Richardson, D.	Walker
	Davison	Lauchlan,	Scanlan	Waller
	Dixon	Lawson	Scaplehorn	Watson, P.
	Emerson	McClennan	Scott	Watson, S.
	Errington	MacKnight	Smiles	Williams
	Essl	Maddison	Smith, D	Wilson, A.
	Fletcher	Marshall	Smith, P.	Wilson, D.
	Forbes	Martin, L	Snowdon, D	Wood
	Foster	Martin, T	Snowdon, DE	Wright, T.H.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 20th June 2012, and the extraordinary meetings held on 30th July 2012 and 12th September 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The Mayor advised that the Council's Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations to all of those Members who had made an application for the same, to enable them to participate (including speaking and voting) in the business of the Council relating to consideration of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Announcements

(i) Death of Former Councillor Alan Otterson

The Mayor paid tribute to the former Councillor and colleague, Alan Otterson who had recently passed away. Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Municipal Journal Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson informed the meeting of the Council's success in being crowned Best Achieving Council in the prestigious Municipal Journal Awards.

The Leader stated that the awards celebrated the best practice, innovation and achievements of local government across the UK.

(iii) Local Government News Award

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Speding advised that the 2012 New Street Design Award had been received by the Council for the lighting on the seafront in Seaburn.

The Mayor formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(iv) Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City advised that the Council had received an award for the assessment and award scheme for civil engineering. The Strategic Transport Corridor and Sunnyside Public Realm had received a design award, whilst the CEEQUAL (the Sustainability Assessment and Awards Scheme for Civil Engineering) had been awarded to recognise best environmental practice, sustainability and design.

(v) Northumbria in Bloom Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Blackburn, the Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City stated that the results of the annual Northumbria in Bloom competition were announced on 11th September 2012 at a ceremony held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Durham. The event was attended by the Deputy Mayor Councillor R Heron and the Deputy Mayoress Mrs J Heron.

Councillor Blackburn was pleased to acknowledge the achievements of the City and announced the following major awards, which had been

gratefully received from Eileen Burn, the Chairman of the Northumbria in Bloom Committee: -

- Houghton-le-Spring – Large Town Class – Silver -Gilt
- Hetton-le-Hole – Large Town Class – Silver -Gilt
- Sunderland – Best Large City Class –North East Co-op Trophy – Gold
- Washington – Small City Class – Silver
- Washington Village – Best Village Class – Gold

Councillor Blackburn thanked all City Council staff, community organisations and businesses for their efforts in achieving the awards and for raising the profile of Sunderland.

Sunderland would be entered as a finalist in the Britain in Bloom Finals 2012. The results would be announced on 6th October 2012.

(vi) Extreme Weather Conditions

The Mayor thanked officers for their joined up work in dealing with the extremely wet weather conditions. A letter of thanks was to be sent to those involved.

(vii) Retirement of Mr. Lee Stoddart, Governance Services Manager from the Council.

The Mayor spoke on the retirement of Mr. Lee Stoddart, Governance Services Manager. He expressed gratitude and paid tribute to his service to the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr Stoddart responded stating that it had been a pleasure working with everyone.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the under mentioned petitions, submitted by the Councillors named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme:-

Councillor Marshall – Petition to reinstate the Sunday 13 bus Route along Doxford Park Way.

Councillor Price – Petition calling for the implementation of a parking management scheme in the streets around Seaburn Metro Station.

Councillor Porthouse – Petition to improve street lighting in various parts of Farringdon Estate.

Councillor Porthouse – Petition to provide additional parking capacity in Farringdon Estate.

Councillor Porthouse – Petition to provide additional parking facilities in the vicinity of Lakeside Towers.

Councillor Walker – Petition to close the walk through access from Trafalgar Road/Shalstone to Brackley.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Ellis, Farr, Stewart, Wakefield and N. Wright.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2012/2013

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of City Services (copy circulated) on the Council's Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2012/2013.

They had also referred the matter to the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2012/2013 and supported the Cabinet's recommendation to Council.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended to Council to approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2012/2013.

2. Sunderland City Council Draft Greenspace Audit and Report 2012 & Draft Ecological Evidence Base for Sunderland's Local Development Framework 2012

That they had given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy circulated) on the 2012 Draft Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for public consultation, which also sought the endorsement of Cabinet for its use in developing the Local Development Framework.

They had also referred the matter to the Planning and Highways Committee and the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Planning and Highways Committee endorsed the report and the Scrutiny Committee commended the report for public consultation and welcomed plans for its further consultation and development with the Council's Area Committees.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended to Council to:-

- (i) Approve the Draft Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for consultation purposes; and
- (ii) Following the close of the consultation and in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio holder, to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any minor amendments to the report prior to its adoption. The final report would be used:
 - a. As part of the evidence base to inform the emerging Local Development Framework, and
 - b. As a material consideration in determining planning applications.

3. Sure Start Review and an Integrated Early Intervention Service – Implementation Update

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) to provide an update on the current position in relation to the development of an early intervention service which includes services delivered as part of the former Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG).

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended to Council to:-

- (i) Approve the proposal at 6.1 and 6.2 of the report; and
- (ii) Invite the five members appointed to the position of chair of the locality People Boards to join the membership of the Local Children's Area Board for their locality.

4. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy circulated) on the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of Members' Allowances.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council that the recommendations of the Independent Panel be accepted and the amendments to the scheme, as set out in the Panel's report, be backdated to the start of the 2012/2013 Financial Year, and also that the amended scheme will apply for the financial year 2013/2014, unless it is further reviewed.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, moved the report of the Cabinet.

Councillor L. Martin, seconded by Councillor Forbes, then moved that Item 4 of the Cabinet report, Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel, be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration in the light of the savings that the Council had to make.

Upon being put to the vote, the reference back was defeated with 60 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor I. Kay)

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Oliver	Thompson
	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Padgett	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Gofton	Porthouse	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Howe	Price	Turton
	Blackburn	Jackson	Richardson, D.	Tye
	Bonallie	Kelly	Scanlan	Walker
	Copeland	Lauchlan	Scaplehorn	Waller
	Curran	McClennan	Scott	Watson, P.
	Davison	MacKnight	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Dixon	Maddison	Smith, D	Williams
	Emerson	Marshall	Smith, P.	Wilson, A.
	Essl	Martin, T	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Snowdon, D. E	Wood
	Foster	Miller, G	Speding	Wright, T.H.
	Francis	Mordey	Tate	

And 2 Members voting for, viz:-

Councillors Forbes
L. Martin

Upon the report of the Cabinet being put to the meeting, it was: -

RESOLVED that the views of the Planning and Highways Committee and the Scrutiny Committee be noted and the report of Cabinet be approved and adopted.

The Audit and Governance Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Annual Report on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2011/2012

That they had given consideration to a report by the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy circulated) on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2011/2012, which demonstrated how they had fulfilled their delegated responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Committee had recommended Council to note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2011/2012.

RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Governance Committee be noted.

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the under mentioned reports on action taken in relation to petitions which had been presented to Council.

(i) Petition urging the Council to reduce the speed limit around Richard Avenue Primary School to 20mph. This reduction will improve safety for our children and families – Presented by Councillor Michael Essl on 25th January 2012.

The Executive Director of City Services had declined the petition which was signed by 376 teachers, support staff and parents of Richard Avenue Primary School and decided not to introduce, at this time, traffic calming measures to mitigate against the perceived speeding problem around Richard Avenue area.

Traffic calming measures in residential areas were prioritised in respect of the severity of accidents, exposure to vulnerable road users, likelihood of compliance, proximity to schools, cost implementation, integration with existing traffic calming and public acceptability. The Council had a prioritised list of 15 proposals as pilot projects. The Council was not in a position to accede to any further requests until the outcome of operating the pilots was evaluated.

Councillor Essl and the lead petitioner had been informed accordingly.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – City Deal

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved a motion in relation to City Deal.

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was carried unanimously and it was: -

RESOLVED that recognising the importance of urban regeneration and skills, this Council asks that the government offers a city deal to Sunderland as part of a second wave.

(ii) Notice of Motion – City Centre Car Parking

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Howe, moved the following motion regarding the under-use of car parking areas in the city centre:-

“This Council notes with concern the under-use of car parking areas in the city centre and believes that, in consultation with appropriate interested parties, there should be a thorough review of the city’s car parking policy with the aim of ensuring maximum usage”.

Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor G. Miller moved the following amendment:-

Delete the words “with concern the under-use of car parking areas” and insert the words “the current usage levels of municipal car parks”.

Delete the word “city” and insert the word “Council’s”.

Upon being put to the meeting, the amended motion was carried unanimously and it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council notes the current usage levels of municipal car parks in the city centre and believes that, in consultation with appropriate interested parties, there should be a thorough review of the council’s car parking policy with the aim of ensuring maximum usage.

(iii) Notice of Motion – GCSE Examinations

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Williams, moved a motion in relation to GCSE Examinations.

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was carried unanimously and it was: -

RESOLVED that this Council, despite the best efforts of the Coalition Government and, in particular, the actions of the Secretary of State for Education, in confusing and derailing the GCSE process, applauds and congratulates the pupils and teachers of the City of Sunderland for the outstanding results achieved in this year's GCSE examinations.

(iv) Notice of Motion – Living Wage

The Leader, seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved a motion in relation to the Living Wage.

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was carried unanimously and it was: -

RESOLVED that this Council believes it has a duty to be a good employer and therefore commits to exploring the viability and benefits of becoming a living wage employer by:-

- performing an audit of employees to establish how many are currently paid less than the living wage; and
- meeting with the Living Wage Foundation, Trades Unions and other Stakeholders to discuss the merits and benefits of a living wage.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

RESOLVED to note the report.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Human Resources Committee, Children's Trust, Adult Partnership Board, Sunderland AFC Foundation Partnership Board and Appeals under the Education Acts – Constitution of Panel Members

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report and an addendum (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider appointments to the Human Resources Committee, the Children's Trust, the Adult Partnership Board and the Sunderland AFC Foundation Partnership Board.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader moved the recommendations contained within the report and the addendum and was duly seconded by the Deputy Leader.

RESOLVED that approval be given to: -

- (i) the appointment of Councillor T Wright to fill the vacancy on the Human Resources Committee and Councillor P Watson and Councillor H Trueman to be Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.
- (ii) the Health, Housing and Adult Services Portfolio Holder to replace the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Portfolio Holder on the Children's Trust;
- (iii) the Cabinet Secretary to replace the Leader of the Council on the Children's Trust;
- (iv) the Cabinet Secretary to replace the Leader of the Council on the Adult Partnership Board;
- (v) the Cabinet Secretary to replace the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Portfolio Holder on the Sunderland AFC Foundation Partnership Board; and
- (vi) the appointment of the following Lay Members to the Education Appeals Panel: -

Rose Elliott, Cleadon
Ian McKinnell, Sunderland
David O'Neill, Newcastle Upon Tyne

(Signed) I. KAY
Mayor.