

# ***Minutes***



## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 20 March 2024 at 4.00pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Graham-King	Miller, G	Speding
	Bond	Guy	Mordey	Stewart
	Burnicle	Haque	Morrissey	Thornton
	Burrell	Hartnack	Mullen	Trueman, H
	Butler	Haswell	O'Brien	Tye
	Chapman	Heron	Peacock	Usher
	Chequer	Hodson	Potts	Vera
	Crosby	Hunter	Price	Walker, M
	Curtis	Johnston, K	Rowntree	Walker, P
	Dixon	Johnston, S	Samuels	Walton
	Dodds	Jones	Scanlan	Warne
	Donaghy	Laverick	Scott	Watson
	Edgeworth	Laws	Smith, A	Williams
	Fagan	Leonard	Smith, G	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P	Wood
	Foster	McDonough	Snowdon, D	
	Gibson	Miller, F	Snowdon, D E	

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ayre, Dunn, Herron, McKeith, Nicholson and Reed together with Honorary Aldermen Forbes, Greenfield and Tate.

### Minutes

- 50. RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Councillor Curtis	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee Member of Children’s Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Dixon	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Edgeworth	ii) Notice of Motion – Hot Food Takeaways	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee and Employee of CAMRA Campaign for Real Ale
Councillor Foster	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee Member of Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Haswell	ii) Notice of Motion – Hot Food Takeaways	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Morrissey	ii) Notice of Motion – Hot Food Takeaways	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Peacock	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Scott	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Warne	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee
Councillor Thornton	iii) Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland	Member of the Planning and Highways Committee Member of Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee

## Proposal for Variation of Order of Business

It was moved by Councillor Stewart and duly seconded by Councillor Tye, that the order of business of the meeting be varied pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13, that agenda item 6 be moved to follow item 12 to ensure that the business of the Council could be concluded: -

Upon being put to the vote the Motion was carried with 57 Members voting for: -.

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Gibson	Miller, G	Stewart
	Bond	Guy	Mordey	Thornton
	Burrell	Haswell	Morrisey	Trueman, H
	Butler	Haque	Price	Tye
	Chapman	Heron	Rowntree	Usher
	Chequer	Hodson	Samuels	Walker, M
	Crosby	Hunter	Scanlan	Walker, P
	Curtis	Johnston, K	Scott	Walton
	Dodds	Jones	Smith, A	Warne
	Donaghy	Laverick	Smith, G	Watson
	Edgeworth	Laws	Smith, P	Williams
	Fagan	Leonard	Snowdon, D	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D E	Wood
	Foster	Miller, F	Speding	

10 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Burnicle	Hartnack	Mullen	Peacock
	Dixon	Johnston, S	O'Brien	Vera
	Graham-King	McDonough		

There were no abstentions.

**51. RESOLVED that** the order of business of the agenda be varied pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13 to allow specific items to be considered during the timeframe set for the meeting.

## Announcements

The Mayor announced that Councillors P Smith and Nicholson would be retiring from office and not standing in the municipal elections in May. As this would be their last Council meeting, she expressed her gratitude for their past service and wished them well for the future.

Individual speeches and tributes were paid by Members to the retiring Councillors and they were thanked for their contribution to the Council.

## **Reception of Petitions**

**52. RESOLVED that** the petitions listed below submitted by the Councillors named be received and referred to the appropriate Chief Officer for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme: -

Councillor Donaghy - Petition from residents opposing councils and private companies buying up houses in the area and turning them into HMOs which residents state they were not consulted on. Residents intend to fight this on the grounds that:

1. Residents were not consulted on the implementation of HMOs;
2. Asylum seekers with no background checks, and bail hostels are being housed next to families with several examples reported: and
3. ASB has repeatedly been reported by residents where these HOMs have been placed.

Councillor Hodson - Petition from residents requesting Sunderland City Council to reverse its plan to cut "free after 3pm" parking in Sunderland Council carparks.

Councillor Haswell – Petition from residents requesting Sunderland City Council to carry out a review of the Saint Lukes Road/Front Road/Westmoor Road/European Way roundabouts and present plans to change the layout and make them safer for drivers and pedestrians.

Councillor Haswell - Petition from residents calling on Nexus and Sunderland City Council to fund the installation of a new bus shelter at the Terminus near the junction of Phoenix Road and Saint Lukes Road.

Councillor Haswell – Petition from residents calling on Sunderland City Council to repair the pavements of Prestwick Road, Petersham Road, Portrush Road and Polebrook Road which have been identified as being in need of repair.

## **Written Questions by Members of the Public under Rule 10**

Pursuant to Rule 10 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by members of the public.

## **Written Questions by Members of the Council under Rule 11**

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by Members of the Council.

## **Report of the Cabinet**

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:

### **1. Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme**

That at its meeting held on 14 March 2024, Cabinet had given consideration to a joint report of the Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached) on the Members' Allowances Scheme for the next financial year.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to continue to apply the terms of the current scheme in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/2025.

### **2. Honorary Freedom of the City of Sunderland**

That at its meeting on 14 March 2024, Cabinet had given consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (Cabinet Report 14 March 2024) on a proposal to consider conferring the Freedom of the City on persons of distinction who had rendered eminent services to the city.

The Cabinet recommended to Council that:

i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972

- Kevin Ball; and
- Gerard (Ger) Fowler

as persons of distinction who had, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city, be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the City; and

(ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

### **3. Appointment of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman of the City of Sunderland**

That at its meeting on 14 March 2024, Cabinet had given consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (Cabinet Report 14 March 2024) on a proposal to appoint two former councillors as Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman of the City of Sunderland in recognition of their eminent service to the city.

The Cabinet recommended to Council that: -

(i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the titles of Honorary Alderman, and Honorary Alderwoman of the City, on former Councillors Mr Peter Wood and Mrs Louise

Farthing, in recognition of their eminent service to the Council and to the people of the City of Sunderland; and

- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved the report of the Cabinet and the supplementary report.

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Fagan, moved the following amendment to Item 10 - Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/2025: -

Basic Allowance – reduction of 5% to £7,951

### **Special Responsibility Allowances**

Leader of the Council – SRA to be set based on political grouping's percentage control of the Council and capped at £30,134

Deputy Leader of the Council – SRA to be set based on political grouping's percentage control of the Council and capped at £20,089

Cabinet Secretary - to be set based on political grouping's percentage control of the Council and capped at £20,089

Cabinet Member with Portfolio- to be set based on political grouping's percentage control of the Council and capped at £16,573

Deputy Cabinet Member - Deletion of SRA for Deputy Cabinet Members

Leader of the Majority Group in Opposition - allowance calculated as a percentage of Leader's SRA, up to maximum of 25%.

Leader of the second largest Group in Opposition – allowance calculated as a percentage of the Majority Opposition Group Leader's allowance, up to a maximum of 50%

### **Chair of the following:**

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – SRA reduced to £4,143

Thematic Scrutiny Committee - SRA reduced to £4,143

Area Committee - SRA reduced to £8,280

Licensing and Regulatory Committee - SRA reduced to £6,695

Planning and Highways Committee - SRA reduced to £6,695

**Vice Chair of the following:**

Area Committee – Removal of SRA

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee - Removal of SRA

Licensing and Regulatory Committee – Removal of SRA

Planning and Highways Committee – Removal of SRA

**Co-optees' Allowances****Audit and Governance Committee**

Chairman - SRA reduced to £4000

Independent member - SRA reduced to £2000

**Mayoral**

Mayoral Allowance – Removal of SRA

Deputy Mayoral – Removal of SRA

**Subsistence Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)**

Abolish all provision for subsistence allowance

**Telephone Calls Allowance**

Abolish all provision for reimbursement of broadband and telephone costs

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 22 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Bond	Fagan	Johnston, S	Peacock
	Burnicle	Gibson	McDonough	Potts
	Crosby	Graham King	Morrissey	Vera
	Dixon	Hartnack	Mullen	Walton
	Donaghy	Haswell	O'Brien	Wood
	Edgeworth	Hodson		

45 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Price	Stewart
	Burrell	Hunter	Rowntree	Thornton
	Butler	Johnston, K	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Chapman	Jones	Scanlan	Tye
	Chequer	Laverick	Scott	Usher
	Curtis	Laws	Smith, A	Walker, M
	Dodds	Leonard	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P	Warne
	Foster	Miller, F	Snowdon, D	Watson
	Guy	Miller, G	Snowdon, DE	Williams
	Haque	Mordey	Speding	

Accordingly, it was: -

- 53. RESOLVED that** the report and supplementary report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

### **Action Taken on Petitions**

The Council received and noted the report below which detailed the action taken in relation to the following petitions which had been presented to the Council.

#### **Petition requesting that the Council urgently carry out road resurfacing of unacceptable sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens**

A petition signed by 31 residents of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens requesting that the council urgently carry out road resurfacing of unacceptable sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens, was presented at Council on 14th June 2023 by Councillor Tye and referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

Following receipt of the petition, Engineers inspected the road surface concluding that both streets would benefit from localised resurfacing and recommended that sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens were included in the Highway Maintenance Programme for 2024-25.

Councillor Tye had been advised of the response.

### **Report on Special Urgency Decisions**

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency, which advised that there were no such instances since the last report.

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

- 54. RESOLVED that** the report be received and noted.

### **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report which informed Council of changes required to the allocation of Committee seats between political groups as a result of the changes to the political balance of the Council together with additional requested changes as set out in the table below. Council was also invited to consider approving appointments to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority which under the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 would be coming into existence on 7th May 2024 as set out in the supplementary report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Vacancy / Member to be Replaced</b>	<b>Member(s) to be Appointed</b>
Human Resources Committee	Vacancy	Councillor Tye
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Councillor Butler
Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Councillor G Smith
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy Vacancy	Councillor Guy Councillor Mordey
Planning and Highways Committee	Vacancy	Councillor Curtis
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Appeals Committee	Vacancy	Councillor S Foster

Washington Town Board - the Chief Executive be delegated to nominate two Councillor appointments to Washington Town Board and to invite a local community leader to act as chair of the Town Board;

Board of Directors of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd. - the appointment of the Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council to the Board of Directors of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd;

North East Mayoral Combined Authority - the appointment of Councillor Graeme Miller to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority; and

North East Mayoral Combined Authority - the appointment of Councillor Rowntree and Councillor Stewart as substitute members to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

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

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Fagan, requested a vote be undertaken on section 5.1 (ix) - Washington Town Board.

No nominations were received from the ungrouped Members in respect of the Committee seats allocated to them.

Upon being put to the vote the full report, including the supplementary report, was carried with 47 Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Price	Stewart
	Burrell	Hunter	Rowntree	Thornton
	Butler	Johnston, K	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Chapman	Jones	Scanlan	Tye
	Chequer	Laverick	Scott	Usher
	Curtis	Laws	Smith, A	Walker, M
	Dodds	Leonard	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Donaghy	Mason-Gage	Smith, P	Warne
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Snowdon, D	Watson
	Foster	Miller, G	Snowdon, D E	Williams
	Guy	Mordey	Speding	Wilson
	Haque			

12 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Bond	Fagan	Hodson	Potts
	Crosby	Gibson	Morrissey	Walton
	Edgeworth	Haswell	O'Brien	Wood

9 Members abstaining: -

Councillors	Burnicle	Hartnack	McDonough	Peacock
	Dixon	Johnston, S	Mullen	Vera
	Graham-King			

**55. RESOLVED that** approval be given to: -

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Tye to the Human Resources Committee;
- (ii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee;
- (iii) the appointment of Councillor Butler to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;
- (iv) the appointment of Councillor G Smith to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) the appointment of Councillors Guy and Mordey to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
- (vi) the appointment of Councillor Curtis to the Planning and Highways Committee;

- (vii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;
- (viii) the appointment of Councillor Foster to the Appeals Committee;
- (ix) the Chief Executive being delegated to nominate two Councillor appointments to the Washington Town Board and to invite a local community leader to act as chair of the Town Board;
- (x) the appointment of the Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council to the Board of Directors of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd.
- xi) the appointment of Councillor Graeme Miller to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority; and
- xii) the appointment of Councillor Rowntree and Councillor Stewart as substitute members to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

### **Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meeting of the Council**

#### **(i) Notice of Motion – A Smart City That Doesn’t Leave Anyone Behind**

Councillor Fagan, duly seconded by Councillor Bond, moved the following motion: -

“Council agrees to ask the Cabinet to review how council services are offered in Sunderland and to take appropriate steps to make sure that:

- (i) everyone in our city can access services even if they cannot or do not want to do so digitally;
- (ii) the Council’s goal is that the cost of services does not differ depending on whether you pay using cash or whether you use electronic payment methods; and
- (iii) nobody is put under undue pressure to access a service digitally if they are not able to do so independently and that analogue access is provided efficiently, effectively and without barriers. This should include a review of policies governing telephone calls by residents to the Council’s Customer Service Network.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously with 65 Members voting in favour: -

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Graham-King	Miller, F	Snowdon, D E
	Bond	Guy	Miller, G	Speding
	Burnicle	Haque	Mordey	Stewart
	Burrell	Hartnack	Morrissey	Thornton
	Butler	Haswell	Mullen	Trueman, H

Chapman	Heron	O'Brien	Tye
Chequer	Hodson	Peacock	Usher
Crosby	Hunter	Potts	Vera
Curtis	Johnston, K	Price	Walker, M
Dixon	Johnston, S	Rowntree	Walker, P
Dodds	Jones	Samuels	Walton
Donaghy	Laverick	Scanlan	Warne
Edgeworth	Laws	Scott	Watson
Fagan	Leonard	Smith, A	Williams
Fletcher	Mason Gage	Smith, G	Wood
Foster	McDonough	Snowdon, D	Wilson

### **Proposal for Variation of Order of Business**

It was moved by Councillor Edgeworth and duly seconded that the order of business of the meeting be varied pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13, that agenda item Notice of Motion – Rescind Ed Davey’s Knighthood be moved to this juncture.

- 56. RESOLVED that** the order of business of the agenda be varied pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13 to allow specific items to be considered during the timeframe set for the meeting.

#### **(iv) Notice of Motion – Rescind Ed Davey’s Knighthood**

The motion had not been formally moved and was withdrawn by Councillor Hartnack.

#### **(ii) Notice of Motion – Minimum Quality Guarantee for Road Repairs**

Councillor Peacock, duly seconded by Councillor S Johnston, moved the following motion: -

Councillors of all parties are frustrated when roads are resurfaced to a poor standard and have to be resurfaced again within a short timeframe. Council recognises this as a false economy - and one which is resulting in a waste of taxpayers' money.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to instigate a review of contract terms for road and pavement repairs, to ensure that the Council receives a good quality service from subcontractors, and to explore options for instituting a regular inspection regime, so that officers are assured that a minimum quality standard has been met or otherwise take action when it has not.

Upon being moved the motion was declared to be carried unanimously and it was therefore: -

**57. RESOLVED that: -**

Councillors of all parties are frustrated when roads are resurfaced to a poor standard and have to be resurfaced again within a short timeframe. Council recognises this as a false economy - and one which is resulting in a waste of taxpayers' money.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to instigate a review of contract terms for road and pavement repairs, to ensure that the Council receives a good quality service from subcontractors, and to explore options for instituting a regular inspection regime, so that officers are assured that a minimum quality standard has been met or otherwise take action when it has not.

The meeting adjourned at this point, having reached three hours' duration.

**(Signed) D TRUEMAN**  
**Mayor**

