

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor N Wright)

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E.	Old	Vardy
	Anderson	Gibson, P.	Oliver	Wake
	Ball	Gofton	Padgett	Wakefield
	Bell	Hall, A.	Rolph	Walker
	Blackburn	Hall, G.	Scott, J	Walton, J.
	Bonallie	Heron	Shattock	Walton, L.
	Charlton	Howe	Smith, D.	Watson, P.
	Cuthbert	Kay	Smith, P.	Watson, S.
	Ellis	Kelly	Snowdon	Williams
	Emerson	McClennan	Speding	Wilson, A.
	Errington	Maddison	Tate	Wilson, D.
	Essl	Martin, L.	Timmins	Wood
	Fletcher	Miller	Trueman, D.	Wright, A.
	Forbes, M.	Mordey	Trueman, H.	Wright, T.
	Francis	Morrissey	Tye	

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 29 September, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the under mentioned items of business for the reasons respectively indicated:-

Item 7(i) – Report of the Cabinet – Budget Planning Framework 2011/2012	Councillors Allan, Anderson, Gofton, H. Trueman and P. Watson	Members of the Association of North East Councils (ANEC)
	Councillor Tate	Member of the Local Government Pension Fund
		Member of the Integrated Transport Authority Scrutiny Committee

Item 7(ii) – Report of the Cabinet – Capital Programme Second Review 2010/2011 (including Treasury Management)	Councillors Allan, Anderson, Gofton, H. Trueman and P. Watson Councillor J. Blackburn	Members of the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) Member of Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority / Nexus
Item 7(iii) – Report of the Cabinet – Licensing Act 2003 – Approval of Amendments to the Council’s Licensing Policy Statement	Councillor Wakefield	Daughter is licence holder at the Sun Inn, Newbottle Village

Mayor’s Announcements

(i) Mr Norman Dennis Deceased

It was with sadness that the Mayor asked the Council to remember former Councillor Norman Dennis who had served on the Council between 1971 and 1974 representing the constituents of Deptford ward.

Members and Officers then joined the Mayor in observing a minute’s silence as a mark of respect for Mr Dennis.

(ii) Guardian Public Services Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, Councillor Pat Smith, advised the meeting of the Council’s success in being awarded first prize in the Service Delivery category of the Guardian Public Services Awards for the XL Youth Village Scheme.

Councillor Smith thanked all those that had been involved in the scheme together with fellow Members for their support and assistance.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions, submitted by the Councillors respectively named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council’s Petitions Scheme, to the Chief Officers indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor Morrisey – petition requesting the withdrawal of the 100 per cent relief on business rates granted to the Scientologists based in Fawcett Street – Director of Financial Resources

- (ii) Councillor Wood – petition from residents of Benedict Court and City Green regarding a Zebra Crossing at the bottom of the footpath leading to Cowan Terrace and on to Park Lane Interchange – Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Copeland, M. Dixon, P. Dixon, Fairs, D. Forbes, Foster, O'Connor, D. Richardson, I.J. Richardson, Scaplehorn, J.B. Scott and Stewart.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. Budget Planning Framework 2011/2012

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources (copy circulated) outlining the Key Factors influencing the development of the Revenue Budget for 2011/2012 and financial plans into the medium term which set out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2011/2012 and provided the basis of developing the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

They had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for its comments in the context of the approved consultation arrangements for the Council's budget. The Scrutiny Committee had accepted the report and Members had commented that they awaited the detail of the Government's Spending Review.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended that the Council approve the proposed budget planning framework which will guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2011/2012.

2. Capital Programme Second Review 2010/2011 (including Treasury Management)

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources (copy circulated) which had detailed:-

- the reprofiling of projects since the First Capital Programme Review was reported;
- the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2010/2011 since the First Capital Programme Review was reported;
- the overall updated Capital Programme following the Second Review; and

- an update on progress on implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/2011.

They had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration in the context of the inclusion of additional schemes for 2010/2011 costing over £250,000 which had been set out in an attached extract. The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee had raised concerns in relation to safeguarding, which the Portfolio Holder had taken into consideration before making a decision and had provided the Scrutiny Committee with an appropriate reply. The Management Scrutiny Committee had accepted the proposed additional scheme as set out in the extract to the report.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended that the Council approve the inclusion of the additional scheme for 2010/2011 and associated resourcing of the Capital Programme since the First Review of the Capital Programme had been approved by Council in September 2010.

3. Licensing Act 2003 – Approval of Amendments to the Council's Licensing Policy Statement

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Executive Director of City Services and the Head of Law and Governance (copy circulated) which had sought approval of the revised Licensing Policy Statement.

They had also referred the report to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee for its comments in the context of the Council's obligation to review the Statement of Licensing Policy in order to fulfil its statutory duty. The Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the report but also expressed a wish that the policy include an indication that the Council would deter what Councillors perceived as a surfeit of licences in particular areas of the city.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended that the Council consider the amendments to the policy and approve the Licensing Statement under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, moved the report of the Cabinet and it was, accordingly:

RESOLVED that the views of the Scrutiny Committees be noted and the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

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.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan, proposed an extension to the time for responding to Written Questions which was agreed.

Action Taken on Petitions

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

(i) Petition from residents of Washington requesting a feasibility study for improved parking facilities in front of the shops on Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington presented to Council by Councillor Ian Cuthbert.

The former Director of Development and Regeneration had agreed to undertake a feasibility study into a scheme to improve parking in front of the shops.

The feasibility Study had been completed. A parking lay-by could be provided on Vigo Lane, in front of the shops, at an estimated cost of £66,000. This included £42,000 for the diversion of underground NEDL and BT cables.

The Council's Capital Programme for traffic management schemes in 2010/11 had been significantly reduced following an in-year Local Transport Plan (LTP) budget reduction of circa £900k imposed by central government. Until such time as the LTP budget for 2011/12 was known and agreed, no decision could be made on progressing the scheme at that time.

Councillor Cuthbert and the lead petitioner had been notified.

(ii) Petition from the Washington History Society – Request to install an Education and Heritage Centre which was presented to Council, by Councillor Jill Fletcher on 21 January 2010.

The petition contained over 900 signatures

The Executive Director City Services had considered the petition and following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer City a meeting had been held with members of the local voluntary sector and officers from Culture and Tourism to discuss their aspirations and needs in relation to a proposed centre. It had been agreed that a recommendation be taken forward to the Washington Area Committee for further consideration.

Washington Area Committee had agreed at its meeting on 4 February 2010 for a funding application to go forward for a feasibility study to be carried out.

The funding was to incorporate the following options:

- costs for the renovation and restoration of the preferred site (Spout Lane),
- to consider a range of options for alternative delivery incorporating the current heritage offer within the area,
- assessing the individual strengths and weaknesses of the heritage assets identified and how these assets contribute to the area and the city, and

- opportunities for collaboration between heritage sites and assets within the Washington area, including guidance on volunteers, management and governance.

In June 2010, following a procurement process undertaken by officers from Culture and Tourism and the Portfolio Holder for Safer City and Culture, the North of England Civic Trust (NECT) had been awarded the contract. The contract had commenced on 1 September 2010.

An interim meeting was to take place in November 2010 with NECT and Members/Officers from the City Council. The purpose of the meeting would be to update on the progress of works, with a full presentation on the outcomes of the study planned for January 2011.

Councillor Fletcher and the lead petitioner were to be notified.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – Support to Show Racism the Red Card

The Deputy Leader, seconded by the Leader, moved a motion in relation to supporting Show Racism the Red Card.

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

RESOLVED that this Council acknowledges the excellent work that the charity Show Racism the Red Card has done in the cause of social cohesion across the country in recent years, and calls on everyone to support its good work.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Comprehensive Spending Review

Councillor Speding, seconded by Councillor Allan, moved a motion relating to the recent Comprehensive Spending Review:-

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried, with 40 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Anderson	Gibson, P.	Old	Trueman, H.
	Ball	Gofton	Padgett	Tye
	Bell	Hall, A.	Rolph	Walker
	Blackburn	Heron	Scott, J.	Watson, P.
	Bonallie	Kay	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Emerson	Kelly	Snowdon	Williams
	Errington	Martin, T.	Speding	Wilson, A.
	Essl	McClennan	Tate	Wright, N.
	Fletcher	Miller	Timmins	Wright, T.

12 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Ellis	Hall, G.	Oliver	Walton, L.
	Forbes, M.	Howe	Wake	Wood
	Francis	Morrissey	Walton, J.	Wright, A.

and two abstentions viz:-

Councillors	Smith, D.	Wakefield
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It was, therefore:

RESOLVED that this Council notes that the recent Comprehensive Spending Review is grossly disproportionate and unfairly targets children and young people and calls on the Coalition Government to reconsider this unfair position.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – The North Eastern Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Great Eppleton Wind Farm Panel and the Sunderland Futures Partnership Board

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider nominations to seats on the North Eastern Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Great Eppleton Wind Farm Panel and the Sunderland Futures Partnership Board.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader moved the recommendations contained in the report and was duly seconded by Councillor Anderson.

Councillor M. Forbes moved an amendment that Councillor Wakefield be nominated to represent the Copt Hill area on the Great Eppleton Wind Farm Panel instead of Councillor Heron. Councillor Ellis seconded the amendment.

Upon having been put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, with 15 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Cuthbert	Hall, G.	Shattock	Walton, L.
	Ellis	Howe	Wake	Wood
	Forbes, M.	Morrissey	Wakefield	Wright, A.
	Francis	Oliver	Walton, J.	

38 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E.	Old	Trueman, H.
	Anderson	Gibson, P.	Padgett	Tye
	Ball	Gofton	Rolph	Walker
	Bell	Hall, A.	Scott, J.	Watson, P.
	Blackburn	Heron	Snowdon	Watson, S.
	Bonallie	Kay	Speding	Williams
	Emerson	Kelly	Tate	Wilson, A.

Errington
Essl
Fletcher

McClennan
Miller
Mordey

Timmins
Trueman, D.

Wright, N.
Wright, T.

and one abstention viz:-

Councillors Martin, T.

The substantive motion having then been put to the meeting it was:

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Councillor R. Bell be confirmed as the Council's nominated representative on the new North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority;
- (ii) Councillor R. Heron be nominated to represent the Copt Hill area on the Great Eppleton Wind Farm Panel; and
- (iii) the Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, Councillor Pat Smith, be nominated as the Council's representative on Sunderland Futures Partnership Board.

(Signed) T. MARTIN,
Mayor.