

Sunderland City Council

At a MEETING of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor M. Smith) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillors	Allan	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Trueman
	Anderson	Foster	O'Connor	Tye
	Arnott	Francis	Old	Vardy
	Ball	E. Gibson	I.J. Richardson	Wake
	Bell	P. Gibson	Rolph	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Gofton	Scaplehorn	J. Walton
	Chamberlin	A. Hall	J. B. Scott	L. Walton
	Charlton	G. Hall	J. Scott	Wares
	Copeland	Heron	Shattock	P. Watson
	A. Cuthbert	Howe	D. Smith	S. Watson
	I. Cuthbert	Kelly	P. Smith	A. Wilson
	M. Dixon	Leadbitter	Snowdon	D. Wilson
	P. Dixon	Peter Maddison	Speding	Wood
	Ellis	L. Martin	Stephenson	A. Wright
	Fairs	Miller	Symonds	N. Wright
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	T.H. Wright
	D. Forbes			

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following:-

- Page 8 – Votes Councillor Copeland noted that she was not registered as having voted at the meeting and wondered if her voting station was working. It was agreed that the voting record would be re-examined and that the voting machine would be tested.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items on the report of Cabinet for the reasons indicated:-

Item 2	Councillors S. Watson and T. H. Wright	Member of the Tansy Centre
	Councillor Charlton	Governor Co-Sponsor of Red House Academy.
Item 3	Councillor P. Smith	Chairman of the Children's Trust
Items 4 and 5	Councillor Tate	Elected Member of the Hetton Town Council
Item 6	Councillor A Cuthbert	Employee of Northumbria Police
	Councillor I Cuthbert	Family Member is an employee of Northumbria Police

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Death of Paul Williams

It was with sadness that the Mayor reminded Council of the recent death of the former MP for Sunderland South, Paul Williams.

Members and Officers joined the Mayor in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Customer Excellence Award

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Councillor Blackburn, informed the meeting of the Council's Building and Development Control Service's success in recently achieving a Customer Service Excellence Award following inspection by Government appointed Assessors.

The prestigious award, by the Governments Cabinet Office recognised excellence in service delivery and in standards of customer care.

The award was the fourth to be received by Building Control (3 of which were under the previous system of Charter Mark), but was a first for Development Control, which, in March 2007, had been released from monitoring by the Planning Standards Authority as a result of its greatly improved performance in dealing with planning applications.

The award acknowledged another key achievement in the transformation from planning standards authority to top quartile planning service.

The award was given following an inspection, which examined services, procedures and methods of working, and involved meetings with customers, focus groups, Council officers and the Portfolio Holder.

He then formally presented the Mayor with the award, which she accepted on behalf of the Council.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions submitted by the Councillors respectively named be received and referred for consideration to the Officer indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor Fletcher – requesting the use of the Edith Avenue Chapel for Community Activities – Director of Community and Cultural Services;
- (ii) Councillor Miller – requesting the re-opening of Rickleton Chapel as a community centre for the local areas – Director of Community and Cultural Services;
- (iii) Councillor Miller – petition from the Rickleton Residents Association requesting the introduction of traffic calming measures in the area of Coquet – Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (iv) Councillor P Dixon – from the residents living in or near St Marks Road, Hylton Street and Aiskell Street wanting the Council to implement traffic calming measures - Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (v) Councillor P Dixon – calling for a pedestrian refuge on Hylton Road located near Oddies Public House/Millburn Street - Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (vi) Councillor Wood – from the residents of Aylesford Mews requesting that the public footpath between Aylesford Mews and Westheath Avenue, Grangetown be closed - Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (vii) Councillor Richardson – from the residents of Houghton-le-Spring and district requesting that the Council provide essential amenities around the Newbottle Street Shopping area – Director of Community and Cultural Services; and
- (viii) Councillor Wakefield – from the residents of Houghton-le-Spring requesting that the Council improve the state of Kirklee Playing Field, John Street – Director of Community and Cultural Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Errington, Paul Maddison, T. Martin, Oliver, Stewart, Timmins, Walker and Whalen.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. Youth Justice Plan 2008-2009

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) seeking approval to the publication and distribution of the Youth Justice Plan 2008-2009. The report outlined the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan and provided the Plan intended for publication.

They had also referred the report to the Children's Services Review Committee for further advice and consideration. The Review Committee had considered and endorsed the Youth Justice Plan prior to its submission to the Youth Justice Board.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to consider the contents of the report and approve the Youth Justice Plan 2008-2009 and agree to its publication and distribution.

2. Capital Programme Outturn 2007/2008 and First Capital Programme Review 2008/2009

That they had given consideration to a report of the City Treasurer on the Capital Programme Outturn for 2007/2008 and the outcome of the First Capital Programme Review for 2008/2009, taking account of the Capital Programme Outturn 2007/2008 and changes made to the Capital Programme 2008/2009 since its approval.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the proposed additional schemes and changes / adjustments for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, detailed in the extract, which had arisen since its approval in March, 2008.

They also referred the matter to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee, for further advice and consideration in the context of the additional schemes for 2008/2009.

The Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee had recommended the council to approve the inclusion of additional schemes for 2008/2009 as set out in the extract to the report.

3. Revenue Budget and Trading Services Outturn for 2007/2008 and First Revenue Review for 2008/2009

That they had given consideration to a report of the City Treasurer on the Revenue Budget and Trading Services Outturn for 2007/2008 and First Revenue Review 2008/2009, namely requesting approval to the virement of funds.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the virement of funds and transfers from reserves and contingencies as detailed in the attached extract to the report.

The Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee had recommended the council to approve the issues of virement as set out in the extract to the report.

4. Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework : Development Plan Document (DPD) Preferred Options : Report of Public Consultation

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy circulated) on the comments received following the consultation exercise on the Preferred Options Stage of the Development Plan Document and to agree the next steps.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to note the representations received and the responses being considered and agree the next steps to progress the Development Plan Document as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The report had also been referred to the Environmental and Planning Review Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The Committees had noted the representations received and the responses being considered and recommended to the Council that the next steps to progress the DPD be agreed.

5. Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework : Housing Allocations Development Plan Document (HADPD) Issues and Options : Report of Public Consultation

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy circulated) on the comments received following the consultation exercise on the Issues and Options stage of the Housing Allocations Development Plan Document (HADPD) and to agree the next steps.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to note the key issues received from the consultation exercise on the Issues and Options Stage of the HADPD and agree the next steps to progress the HADPD.

They had also referred the report to the Environmental and Planning Review Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The Planning and Highways Committee noted the comments received following the consultation exercise and recommend to the Council that the next steps to progress the HADPD be agreed. The Environment and Planning Review Committee noted the report but also expressed concerns over the use of employment land for housing development and the over reliance on apartment development in the City Centre. It was also commented that Greenfield sites should only be used for development where there were no Brownfield sites available.

6. Food Law Plan 2008/2009

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services (copy circulated) on the Services Food Law Service Plan for 2008/2009 and to seek approval of the Plan.

The Cabinet recommended the Council approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan.

They also referred the report to the Regeneration and Community Review Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee recommended to the Council that the Food Law Service Plan for 2008/09 be approved.

RESOLVED that the report of Cabinet, together with the views of the Review Committees and the Planning and Highways Committee, be approved and adopted.

Written Questions (if any) 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 undermentioned report on action taken in relation to a petition which had been presented to the Council: -

Petition from 5,240 people requesting to keep Crowtree Leisure Centre open as it is an excellent, well used, easily accessible facility in the heart of the city attracting nearly 500,000 visitors a year. Presented by Councillor P. Dixon on 2 April, 2008.

The Director of Community and Cultural Services following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder had advised that the closure of Crowtree Leisure Centre's pool was a decision taken by Cabinet to realign resources to support the opening of the Sunderland Aquatic Centre. In relation to Crowtree, all other facilities would remain open to the public and not close, until new facilities open to replace this provision.

As there was no Lead Petitioner detailed on the petition, a response would be sent to Councillor P. Dixon to advise that all facilities would remain open at Crowtree, until new facilities were open to replace such provision.

(i) Notice of Motion – Post Office Closures

Councillor G Hall, seconded by Councillor Heron moved a motion deploring the decision of the Post Office Ltd. to close Post Offices in Sunderland.

Upon being put to the meeting the motion was carried unanimously.

Accordingly it was: -

RESOLVED that this Council deplores the decision by Post Office Ltd to close Post Offices in Sunderland. We feel strongly that these closures have been made with scant regard for the residents genuine concerns over access to local services.

(ii) Notice of Motion – “Cities Unlimited: Making an Urban Regeneration Work”

Councillor P Watson, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved a notice of motion supporting the mass condemnation of the recent report entitled, “Cities Unlimited: Making an Urban Regeneration Work.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried with 62 Members voting for, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Tate
	Anderson	Foster	O'Connor	Trueman
	Ball	Francis	Old	Tye
	Bell	E. Gibson	D Richardson	Vardy
	Blackburn	P. Gibson	I.J. Richardson	Wake
	Chamberlin	Gofton	Rolph	Wakefield
	Charlton	A. Hall	Scaplehorn	J. Walton
	Copeland	G Hall	J. B. Scott	L. Walton
	A. Cuthbert	Heron	J. Scott	Wares
	I. Cuthbert	Howe	Shattock	P. Watson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	D. Smith	S. Watson
	P. Dixon	Leadbitter	M. Smith	A. Wilson
	Ellis	Peter Maddison	Snowdon	Wood
	Fairs	L. Martin	Speding	A. Wright
	Fletcher	Miller	Symonds	N. Wright
	D. Forbes	Mordey		

No Member voted against the motion.

Accordingly, it was:-

RESOLVED that this City Council supports the mass condemnation of the recent report entitled “Cities Unlimited: Making Urban Regeneration Work,” which was published by Policy Exchange a right wing think tank. We believe this report to be an affront to the hard working people of the City of Sunderland whose spirit and determination has resurrected and reinvented our City and our economy after the demise of our traditional industries.

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 that the report be noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Appeals Committee and Panels, North East Community Forests Limited and Great North Forest Partnership Steering Group and Sunderland Arc

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider its representation on the Appeals Committee and Panels, North East Community Forests Limited and Great North Forest Partnership Steering Group and the Sunderland Arc.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader, seconded by the Deputy Leader, nominated Councillors J Kelly, Miller and N Wright for membership on the Appeals Committee and Panels and the Chief Executive (Acting) for membership on the Board of the Sunderland Arc.

Councillor L. Martin advised that the additional Conservative seats would remain vacant on the Appeals Committee and Panels. He moved that Councillor G Hall should be considered for membership on the Board of the Sunderland Arc.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal for Councillor G Hall to be nominated onto the Board of the Sunderland Arc was defeated with 24 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Chamberlin	Fairs	Peter Maddison	L. Walton
	A. Cuthbert	M. Forbes	L. Martin	Vardy
	I. Cuthbert	Francis	Morrissey	Wakefield
	Ellis	G. Hall	I. Richardson	Wake
	M. Dixon	Howe	D Smith	Wood
	P. Dixon	Leadbitter	J. Walton	A Wright

1 Member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor Blackburn

and 38 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	Rolph	Tate
	Anderson	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Trueman
	Ball	A. Hall	J. B. Scott	Tye
	Bell	Heron	J. Scott	Wares
	Charlton	Kelly	Shattock	P. Watson
	Copeland	Miller	M. Smith	S. Watson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Snowdon	A. Wilson
	D. Forbes	O'Connor	Speding	N. Wright
	Foster	Old	Symonds	T. Wright
	E. Gibson	D Richardson		

The substantive motion to approve the Chief Executive (Acting) for membership on the Board of the Sunderland Arc was then put to the meeting and upon being put to the vote was carried with 41 members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	E. Gibson	D Richardson	Tate
	Anderson	P. Gibson	Rolph	Trueman
	Ball	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Tye
	Bell	A. Hall	J. B. Scott	Wake
	Blackburn	Heron	J. Scott	Wares
	Charlton	Kelly	Shattock	P. Watson
	Chamberlin	Miller	M. Smith	S. Watson
	Copeland	Mordey	Snowdon	A. Wilson
	Fletcher	O'Connor	Speding	N. Wright
	D. Forbes	Old	Symonds	T. Wright
	Foster			

And 22 Members voting against, viz:

Councillors	A. Cuthbert	M. Forbes	L. Martin	L. Walton
	I. Cuthbert	Francis	Morrissey	Vardy
	Ellis	G. Hall	I. Richardson	Wakefield
	M. Dixon	Howe	D Smith	Wood
	P. Dixon	Leadbitter	J. Walton	A Wright
	Fairs	Peter Maddison		

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the number of members on the Appeals Committee be increased by 3 Labour Members and 2 Conservative Members with Councillors J Kelly, Miller and N Wright be appointed to serve on the Committee and the remaining 2 Conservative Seats to remain vacant for the time being;

- (ii) the position in relation to North East Community Forests Limited and Great North Forest Partnership Steering Group be noted; and;
- (iii) the Chief Executive (Acting) be appointed as a further representative on the Board of the Sunderland Arc.

(Signed) M. SMITH
Mayor