

# Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 6.00pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor S Porthouse) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B Curran)

Councillors	Allen	Farr	Lauchlan	Thompson
	Anderson	Fletcher	Lawson	Trueman, D.
	Atkinson	Forbes	McClennan	Trueman, H.
	Ball	Foster	MacKnight	Turton, M
	Bell	Francis	Martin, L	Turton, W
	Copeland	Galbraith	Martin, T	Tye
	Cummings	Gallagher	Miller, F	Wakefield
	Davison	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Watson, P.
	Dixon, D	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Watson, S.
	Dixon, M	Gofton	Padgett	Williams
	Ellis	Howe	Price	Wilson, A
	Emerson	Jackson	Scanlan	Wilson, D.
	Errington	Kay	Shattock	Wood
	Essl	Kelly	Smith, D	Wright, N.

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Mark Greenfield and Mary Smith.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

## Minutes

20. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 July 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 7 – Report of the Cabinet: NEPO Transformation – Introduction of New Arrangements	Councillor Kay	Involved with organisations that bid for NEPO contracts.
	Councillor McClennan	Member of Riverside Consulting CIC, a NEPO contracted provider

## **Announcements**

### **(i) Former High Sheriff Marj Barton and Former Councillor Stuart Deacon**

The Mayor paid tribute to the former High Sheriff Marj Barton and former Councillor Stuart Deacon who had recently passed away.

Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

### **(ii) Councillor Bernie Scaplehorn**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Trueman informed Members that Councillor Scaplehorn had recently been taken ill and was in a serious condition in hospital.

The Mayor undertook to send a card on behalf of Council Members to Councillor Scaplehorn wishing him a speedy recovery.

### **(iii) Ice Bucket Challenge**

The Mayor reported that prior to the Council meeting, Councillor Mordey had participated in the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' and had raised £200 for the Mayor's charity.

## **Reception of Petitions**

21. RESOLVED that the petitions listed below, submitted by the following Councillors, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme:-

Councillor Shattock – Petition regarding commercial traffic using Burntwood Avenue, Southwick – Deputy Chief Executive.

Councillor Price – Petition regarding excessive parking in Beechwood Terrace, Thornhill – Deputy Chief Executive.

Councillor Galbraith – Petition regarding parking on green area of land at Oakfield Close – Deputy Chief Executive.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Blackburn, Farthing, Leadbitter, Marshall, Scaplehorn, Scott, P Smith, D Snowdon, D E Snowdon, Speding, Stewart, Taylor, Waller, Walker, Wiper, T Wright and Honorary Aldermen James Walker and Michael Arnott.

**The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-**

**1. Amendments to the Constitution:**

- (i) The Localism Act 2011 – Assets of Community Value**
- (ii) North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Transformation – Introduction of New Arrangements for the Leadership and Governance of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement**

That they had given consideration to reports of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Executive on arrangements to implement the Community Right to Bid provisions contained in the Localism Act 2011 and the revised arrangements for the leadership and management of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement respectively.

The Cabinet have agreed the arrangements and accordingly recommend the Council to: -

- (a) authorise the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader, to amend the Council's Constitution as necessary to reflect the arrangements for the Community Right to Bid provisions contained in the Localism Act 2011; and
- (b) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to make any consequential changes to the Constitution to give effect to the revised arrangements in respect of the leadership and management of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P Watson, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor H Trueman, moved the report of the Cabinet.

Accordingly it was:-

22. RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

**Annual Report of the work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2013/2014**

The Audit and Governance Committee reported that they had given consideration to a report by the Head of Assurance, Procurement and Projects on the work of the Committee during 2013/2014 which had demonstrated how they had fulfilled their delegated responsibilities.

Accordingly the Committee recommended that the Council note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillor N Wright, duly seconded by Councillor Forbes, moved the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and it was:-

23. 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.

Councillor L Martin, duly seconded, moved an extension to the time for responding to Written Questions which was agreed.

## **Action Taken on Petitions**

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

**(i) Petition requesting the Early Days Nursery at Ryhope be saved Presented by Councillor Emerson on 2 July 2014.**

The petition was forwarded to the Executive Director of People Services who has advised that following the school's announcement in May 2014, the Council undertook an options appraisal on the alternatives available for continued day care provision in the Ryhope area for children and their parents.

As a result of the options appraisal, a short procurement exercise was undertaken seeking expressions of interest from providers, which concluded on 4 July 2014. Through this exercise the Council was successful in securing one very well developed bid from a provider who already ran a viable and valued day care provision elsewhere in Sunderland. The Council worked with the bidder and Ryhope Infant school on the detail of the bid. Parents have been informed and would be kept informed as this progressed towards 1 September 2014.

Councillor Emerson had been advised of the action taken on the petition.

## **Notices of Motion**

**(i) Notice of Motion – Living Wage Employer**

Councillor L Martin, seconded by Councillor Forbes, moved the following motion: -

'This Council aspires to become a Living Wage employer and instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward proposals to achieve this aspiration.'

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader moved the following amendment: -

Delete the word "aspires" and replace with "commits".

After "commits" insert a comma and the words "in spite of four years of Tory led Government cuts and public sector wage restraints".

After "proposals" insert "by the end of December 2014".

Delete the word “aspiration” and replace with “commitment”

After “commitment” insert “by April 2015”.

Upon being put to the meeting the amendment was unanimously carried, with the following Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor S Porthouse)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B Curran)

Councillors	Allen	Farr	Lauchlan	Thompson
	Anderson	Fletcher	Lawson	Trueman, D.
	Atkinson	Forbes	McClennan	Trueman, H.
	Ball	Foster	MacKnight	Turton, M
	Bell	Francis	Martin, L	Turton, W
	Copeland	Galbraith	Martin, T	Tye
	Cummings	Gallagher	Miller, F	Watson, P.
	Davison	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Watson, S.
	Dixon, D	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Williams
	Dixon, M	Gofton	Padgett	Wilson, A
	Ellis	Howe	Price	Wilson, D.
	Emerson	Jackson	Scanlan	Wood
	Errington	Kay	Shattock	Wright, N.
	Essl	Kelly	Smith, D	

The substantive motion was the presented to the meeting as follows: -

‘This Council commits, in spite of four years of Tory led Government cuts and public sector wage restraints, to become a Living Wage employer and instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward proposals by the end of December 2014 to achievement this commitment by April 2015.’

Upon being put to the meeting, the substantive motion was unanimously carried, with the following Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor S Porthouse) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B Curran)

Councillors	Allen	Farr	Lauchlan	Thompson
	Anderson	Fletcher	Lawson	Trueman, D.
	Atkinson	Forbes	McClennan	Trueman, H.
	Ball	Foster	MacKnight	Turton, M
	Bell	Francis	Martin, L	Turton, W
	Copeland	Galbraith	Martin, T	Tye
	Cummings	Gallagher	Miller, F	Wakefield
	Davison	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Watson, P.
	Dixon, D	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Watson, S.
	Dixon, M	Gofton	Padgett	Williams
	Ellis	Howe	Price	Wilson, A
	Emerson	Jackson	Scanlan	Wilson, D.
	Errington	Kay	Shattock	Wood
	Essl	Kelly	Smith, D	Wright, N.

It was therefore: -

24. RESOLVED that this Council commits, in spite of four years of Tory led Government cuts and public sector wage restraints, to become a Living Wage employer and instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward proposals by the end of December 2014 to achievement this commitment by April 2015.

### **Quarterly 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.

25. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

### **Appointments – Association of the Friends of Sunderland Museums, Parker Memorial Home and Nominations to Committees Established by the Combined Authority**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report asking the Council to consider appointments to the Association of the Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSuMs) and to the Parker Memorial Home. The Council were also informed of nominations to Committees established by the Combined Authority.

26. RESOLVED that the Council:-
- (i) confirm that the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Portfolio Holder be appointed to the Friends of Sunderland Museums;
  - (ii) appoint Councillors Ball, Gallagher, Speding, H Trueman, S Watson and N Wright as Managing Trustees of the Parker Memorial Home; and
  - (iii) note the appointments to the Transport North East Committee and Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub Committee made by the Leader of the Council under his delegation in the Council's Constitution.

### **Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Local Government Act 1972**

The Chief Executive and the Head of Law and Governance submitted a joint report seeking approval for the Head of Financial Resources to continue to be designated as the section 151 officer on an interim basis.

27. RESOLVED that the Head of Financial Resources continue to be designated as section 151 officer on an interim basis and that she be authorised to continue to exercise delegated powers in relation to the financial affairs of the Council, which are currently delegated in the constitution to the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services.

Signed) S PORTHOUSE  
Mayor