

# ***Minutes***



# Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

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

|             |           |            |               |             |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Councillors | Allen     | Francis    | Miller, G.    | Trueman, D. |
|             | Anderson  | Gibson, E. | Mordey        | Trueman, H. |
|             | Ball      | Gibson, P. | Padgett       | Turton, M.  |
|             | Bell      | Howe       | Scanlan       | Turton, W.  |
|             | Blackburn | Jackson    | Scaplehorn    | Tye         |
|             | Copeland  | Kay        | Scott         | Wakefield   |
|             | Cummings  | Kelly      | Smith, D.     | Walker      |
|             | Davison   | Lauchlan   | Smith, P.     | Waller      |
|             | Dixon, D. | Lawson     | Snowdon, D.   | Watson, P.  |
|             | Dixon, M. | Leadbitter | Snowdon, D.E. | Watson, S.  |
|             | Ellis     | McClennan  | Speding       | Williams    |
|             | Emerson   | MacKnight  | Stewart       | Wilson, D.  |
|             | Errington | Marshall   | Taylor        | Wood        |
|             | Essl      | Martin, L. | Thompson      | Wright, T.  |
|             | Foster    | Martin, T. |               |             |

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Michael Arnott and Mark Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

## Minutes

11. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council and those of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 (copies herewith) be confirmed and signed as correct records.

## Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was submitted and the Deputy Chief Executive left the Council chamber during consideration of the item: -

|                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Item 7 – Report of the Cabinet: Capital Programme Outturn 2013/14 and First Review 2014/15 (including Treasury Management) | Janet Johnson (Deputy Chief Executive) | Governor of Sunderland College |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## **Announcements**

### **(i) Municipal Journal Digital City of the Year Award**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Speding reported that the Council had been successful in being awarded the Municipal Journal Digital City of the Year Award.

Councillor Speding advised that this was the first ever UK Digital City of the Year Award; Sunderland was one of seven finalists and the judges had felt that Sunderland had most improved the lives of its citizens, developed their potential and met their changing needs for integrated, digital public services.

### **(ii) Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Planning Excellence**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Speding reported that the Council had been successful in being awarded the Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Planning Excellence.

Councillor Speding advised that this was a prestigious award that had been given in recognition of the work done to breathe new life into Marine Walk and Seaburn Seafront; he congratulated everyone who had been involved in this highly impressive scheme.

## **Reception of Petitions**

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

Councillor Taylor – Petition requesting the installation of a bus stop on Newbottle Street near the Houghton le Spring Library and Gentoo Offices - Nexus.

Councillor Emerson – Petition requesting that Early Days Nursery at Ryhope be saved – Executive Director of People Services.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Atkinson, Farr, Farthing, Fletcher, Forbes, Galbraith, Gallagher, Gofton, F. Miller, Price, Shattock, A. Wilson, Wiper, N. Wright and Honorary Alderman Mrs Mary Smith.

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

**1. Capital Programme Outturn 2013/2014 and First Review 2014/2015 (including Treasury Management)**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources on an aspect of the report on the Capital Programme Outturn 2013/2014 and First Review 2014/2015 (including Treasury Management), which requested the Council to approve the variations in the capital programme for both years to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended that the Council approve the proposed variation to the Capital Programme for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000 as set out in the extract attached to the report.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration in the context of inclusion of the additional schemes for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 costing over £250,000 which were set out in the relevant extracts attached to the report.

The Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet recommendation to recommend the Council to approve the proposed variations to the Capital Programme for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000 as set out in the extract to the Cabinet report.

**2. Revenue Budget Outturn for 2013/2014 and First Revenue Review 2014/2015**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources on the Revenue Budget Outturn for 2013/2014 and First Revenue Review 2014/2015 which requested that the Council approve the transfer of funds.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework certain transfers require Council approval. The attachment to the report set out the relevant extract from the Cabinet report, which referred to the transfer of £5.001m under spending on the revenue budget 2013/2014 to a Capital Priorities Reserve to support priority projects in 2014/2015 and future years in order to minimise the impact on future revenue budgets.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended that the Council approve the budget transfer as set out above and in the attachment to the report.

They also referred the extract of the budget transfer to the Scrutiny Committee, for advice and consideration.

The Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet recommendation to recommend the Council to approve the transfer of £5.001million under spend from the 2013/2014 Revenue Budget to the Capital Priorities Reserve to support priority projects in 2014/2015 and future years in order to minimise the impact on future revenue budgets.

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:-

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

### **Scrutiny Matters: Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/2014**

The Chief Executive submitted the Annual Scrutiny Report (copy circulated) which summarised the work of the Scrutiny Committee and panels during the year 2013/2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor T. Martin, duly seconded by Councillor D.E. Snowdon, moved the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee and accordingly it was:-

14. RESOLVED that the operation, achievements and impact of the Scrutiny Committee during 2013/2014, as outlined in the Annual Report, be received and noted.

### **Area Committees Annual Report 2013/2014**

The Chief Executive submitted the Combined Area Committee Annual Report (copy circulated) which summarised the work of the five Area Committees during the year 2013/2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Deputy Leader, Councillor H. Trueman, duly seconded by Councillor S. Watson, moved the Combined Annual Report of the Area Committees and accordingly it was:-

15. RESOLVED that the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees during 2013/2014, as outlined in the Annual Report, be received and 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 and noted the under mentioned report on action taken in relation to the following petition which had been presented to Council.

**(i) Petition from the residents of Railway Cottages, Dubmire, requesting regular maintenance of the garages facing their houses – Presented by Councillor Ellis on 26 March 2014.**

The above petition was forwarded to Gentoo Sunderland who had advised in response that a visit had been made to the garages in question which they believed were located at Chilton Gardens in Fence Houses.

Gentoo Sunderland advised that the garages were inspected on a regular basis and any works required were reported to the depot. Individual tenants of the garages could also report repairs as and when required.

Any major works to the garages such as painting would be carried out as part of a planned maintenance programme.

Gentoo Sunderland had not been made aware that there was a problem with children climbing onto the roofs of the garages but would request that some anti climb paint be applied to them as a matter of urgency.

Gentoo Sunderland would also contact the local neighbourhood police team and ask them to pay this area some extra attention when doing their patrols and had offered to meet Councillor Ellis at the garages if she would like to discuss the matter further.

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

## **Notices of Motion**

**(i) Notice of Motion – Worklessness**

Councillor L. Martin, seconded by Councillor Howe, moved the following motion in relation to worklessness:-

‘This council welcomes the 450,000 fall in the number of workless households since 2010 and resolves to do everything it can to eradicate generational unemployment in this city.’

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

16. RESOLVED that this council welcomes the 450,000 fall in the number of workless households since 2010 and resolves to do everything it can to eradicate generational unemployment in this city.

**(ii) Notice of Motion – Sunderland Council – restating our cooperative principles**

Councillor Stewart, seconded by Councillor G. Miller, moved the following motion:-

“We believe that the unprecedented financial challenges facing the public and voluntary sectors across England will have a severe impact on our communities. We believe that as a Community Leadership Council we must continue to find new ways of meeting the priority needs of our communities in ways which, though innovative and enterprising, remain firmly guided by our core values ‘Decent, Proud and Together.’

As a Community Leadership Council and founding member of the Co-operative Council Network Sunderland City Council has risen to the challenges it faces. We believe that through collective action and co-operation, empowerment and enterprise we are laying the foundations for the fresh and innovative solutions that are needed to move forward together.

We want to build on the substantial progress achieved by the Council in supporting new models of cooperation which re-balance power between public services and citizens. We believe these will help to build stronger and more resilient communities, manage service demand, achieve better outcomes and generate more sustainable social and economic growth.

We therefore call upon the Council to review its operating framework, policies and protocols to:

- Encourage further, closer working with partners who share our core values of ‘Decent, Proud, Together’
- Support practical engagement with our communities as sources of ideas, innovation, intelligence and enterprise
- Continue to promote a practical approach to “self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity and other cooperative values in both policy development and actions taken to implement policy

We believe this approach will strengthen our capacity and capabilities as a Council that will be closer to and understands its communities and is committed to innovation, creativity and social productivity in meeting the priority needs of the residents of the city of Sunderland.”

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

17. RESOLVED that we believe that the unprecedented financial challenges facing the public and voluntary sectors across England will have a severe impact on our communities. We believe that as a Community Leadership Council we must continue to find new ways of meeting the priority needs of our communities in ways which, though innovative and enterprising, remain firmly guided by our core values 'Decent, Proud and Together.'

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

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

18. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## **Appointments – Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), Localism Act 2011: Independent Person, Strategic Transport**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Health Housing and Adult Services to the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and also asked the Council to note the retirement of Mr Anthony Atkinson from his role as Independent Person to the Standards Committee and note the Leader's decision to include strategic transport within his portfolio.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

19. RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) formalise the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services to the SSAB;
- (ii) note the retirement of Mr Anthony Atkinson from the post of Independent Person at the expiry of his current term of office, at the end of July this year and delegate to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, to make arrangements to advertise for, shortlist and interview for a second Independent Person, to be recommended to full Council for appointment, should it be considered to be beneficial to do so in the future; and
- (iii) note the Leader's decision to include strategic transport within his portfolio.

Signed) S. PORTHOUSE,  
Mayor.