

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor S. Porthouse) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Farthing	Martin, L	Trueman, D.
	Allen	Fletcher	Martin, T	Trueman, H.
	Anderson	Foster	Miller, F	Turton, M
	Atkinson	Galbraith	Miller, G	Turton, W
	Ball	Gallagher	Mordey	Wakefield
	Bell	Gibson, E	Price	Walker
	Copeland	Gibson, P	Scanlan	Watson, P
	Cummings	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Watson, S
	Curran	Jackson	Smith, D	Williams
	Davison	Kay	Smith, P	Wilson, A
	Dixon, D	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Wiper
	Dixon, M	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D.E	Wood
	Ellis	Lawson	Speding	Wright, N.
	Emerson	Leadbitter	Stewart	Wright, T.H
	Errington	McClennan	Taylor, A	
	Essl	MacKnight	Thompson	

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Mark Greenfield and Mary Smith.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

43. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th March, 2015 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

(i) Retirement of Councillors Florence Anderson, Thomas Martin, John Scott, Lee Martin, David Errington and George Thompson.

The Mayor advised that Councillors Anderson, T. Martin, Scott, L. Martin, Errington and Thompson would be retiring from office and not standing at the next Local Government Elections. On behalf of the Council, he expressed gratitude for their past service and wished them well for the future.

Reception of Petitions

44. RESOLVED that the under-mentioned petition, submitted by the Councillor named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme:-

Councillor Norma Wright – Petition from residents requesting that a Community Parking Management Scheme be implemented around the area of Monkwearmouth Hospital – Deputy Chief Executive.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Farr, Francis, Howe, Marshall, Scott, Tye, Waller and D. Wilson and also on behalf of Honorary Alderman Michael Arnott.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2015-2016

That they had given consideration to a report of the Human Resources Committee (copy attached) on an update and a proposal to publish the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2015 – 2016 in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2015-2016 and its subsequent publication on the Council's website by 31 March 2015.

2. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance (copy attached) on the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of Members' Allowances.

The Independent Remuneration Panel viewed and received information regarding how the operation of the revised executive and committee arrangements and the roles and responsibilities thereunder had been embedded in council arrangements, and also considered representations that had been made by members in respect of a number of other aspects of the Scheme. Following careful consideration of these matters, the Panel had recommended that the Members' Allowances Scheme remained unchanged.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the recommendations of the Remuneration Panel that:-

- (i) the report, including the Council's commitment to further improvement action to reinforce the overall successful implementation of Executive and Committee arrangements and ensure steps are taken to increase understanding of the roles and achievements, be noted, and

- (ii) no change be made to the current level of allowances paid to Members of the Council of the City of Sunderland for 2015/2016.

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

Upon the report of the Cabinet being put to the Council it was:-

45. RESOLVED that 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.

Notice of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises

Councillor D. Dixon, seconded by Councillor Mordey moved the following motion in relation to the Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises:-

“This Council calls upon the Government to ensure that the quality of services is maintained in the re-letting of the Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises”.

Councillor Wood, duly seconded by Councillor Wiper proposed the following amendment:-

Delete “maintained” and replace with “improved”.

So that the amended motion reads:-

“This Council calls upon the Government to ensure that the quality of services is improved in the re-letting of the Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises”.

Upon being put to the meeting the amendment was unanimously agreed. The Mayor then put the new substantive motion to the meeting and it was unanimously:-

46. RESOLVED that:-

This Council calls upon the Government to ensure that the quality of services is improved in the re-letting of the Northern and Transpennine Express rail franchises.

(Signed) S. PORTHOUSE,
Mayor.