

## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	Oliver	Thompson
	Ball	Hall	Padgett	D. Trueman
	Bell	Heron	D. Richardson	H. Trueman
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scanlan	Vardy
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Scaplehorn	Wakefield
	Charlton	MacKnight	Scott	Walker
	Curran	Maddison	Shattock	P. Watson
	Dixon	L. Martin	Smiles	S. Watson
	Ellis	T. Martin	D. Smith	Williams
	Fletcher	McClennan	P. Smith	Wilson
	Forbes	G. Miller	Snowdon	Wood
	Francis	Mordey	Speding	A. Wright
	E. Gibson	Morrissey	Tate	T. Wright

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

### Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

### Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items in the Cabinet report in respect of the interests respectively indicated:-

Item 6(ii) and (iii) – Report of the Cabinet – Capital Programme 2012/2013 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2012/2013	Councillor Allan	Governor of Thorney Close Primary School Member of Local Government Pension Scheme Member of Trade Union
Including Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 and Revenue Budget	Councillor Ball	Member of Trade Union
	Councillor Bell	Member – Tyne and Wear

2012/2013 and Medium  
Term Financial Strategy  
2011/2012 to 2014/2015

	Archives and Museums Joint Committee Member – North Trust Inshore Fisheries Conservation Director of Beamish Museum Limited and Joint Committee Member of Trade Union
Councillor Blackburn	Member – South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Member – Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority Member – Hetton Town Council Member of Trade Union
Councillor Bonallie	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Charlton	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Curran	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Fletcher	Member of Trade Union
Councillor E. Gibson	Member of Trade Union – retired
Councillor Hall	Board Member of Gentoo Living Employed Anchor Trust Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union
Councillor Heron	Member – Hetton Town Council Member – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Member of Trade Union
Councillor Kay	Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union
Councillor Kelly	Member of Association of North East Councils Member of Trade Union
Councillor Lauchlan	Member of Trade Union
Councillor MacKnight	Member of Trade Union

Councillor T. Martin	Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union
Councillor McClennan	Member of LGPS
Councillor G. Miller	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Mordey	Governor – Hudson Road School Governor – Grangetown Primary School Member – Tyne and Wear Pensions Committee Member of Trade Union
Councillor Oliver	Governor – Farringdon Community Sports College
Councillor Snowdon	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Scott	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Shattock	Member of Trade Union
Councillor P. Smith	Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union
Councillor Speding	Member of Football Association Ltd Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union Member of Association of North East Councils Member – South of Tyne and Wear Waste Partnership
Councillor Tate	Director – Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company Member of Trade Union Member of LGPS Member – Hetton Town Council Wife is an employee of Easington Lane School Chair of Hetton Home Care Services Member – Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust

Councillor H. Trueman	Member of LGPS Member of Trade Union Member – Association of North East Councils Member – Sunderland Partnership
Councillor Wakefield	Member of Trade Union
Councillor P. Walker	Member of Trade Union
Councillor P. Watson	Member of Trade Union Member – Association of North East Councils NE LEP Member Member – Sunderland Partnership
Councillor S. Watson	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Williams	Governor – Wessington Primary School
Councillor Wilson	Member of Trade Union
Councillor Wood	Member of Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority
Councillor N. Wright	Member of Trade Union
Councillor T. Wright	Member of Trade Union Member of Empire Theatre Trust

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Copeland, Emerson, Errington, Essl, Fairs, S. Foster, T. Foster, Gallagher, Gofton, Howe, F. Miller, Porthouse, I. Richardson, Rolph, Stewart, Tye, Wake, Waller, Walton and Wiper.

## **The Cabinet reported as follows:-**

That they had referred the initial proposals on these matters to the Management Scrutiny Committee which had supported the recommendations set out in the report to Cabinet dated 11 January 2012.

That they had also subsequently, on 15 February 2012, submitted the report referred to in item 2 to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 10 February 2012 and also the reports referred to in items 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 16 February 2012.

The Management Scrutiny Committee had commented that officers and the Cabinet were to be congratulated on the preparation of the 2012 /2013 budget and agreed that the Cabinet's actions be supported.

Subsequently the precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Northumbria Police Authority had been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 15 February 2012.

### **1. Draft Council Tax Leaflet 2012/2013**

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services relating to the Draft Council Tax Leaflet 2012/2013 document and recommended that the final version be circulated with Council Tax Bills. The latest outlined version of the Council Tax Leaflet 2012/2013 had been tabled at the meeting.

### **2. Capital Programme 2012/2013 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2012/2013, including Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015**

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy circulated) and recommended that approval be given to:

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2012/2013;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2012/2013 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2012/2013.

The Audit and Governance Committee had been consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Strategy and Policy for 2012/2013 and had been pleased to note that there were no major changes being proposed to the overall Strategy and that the careful and prudent approach adopted by the Council in previous years would continue.

The Committee had also noted the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategy and the positive and prudent approach which had been taken to both borrowing and investment by the Council.

The Committee had been satisfied that the arrangements for Treasury Management were in an excellent position for the next and future years and resolved that the Council be advised accordingly.

### **3. Revenue Budget 2012/2013 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/2012 to 2014/2015**

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy circulated) on:

- the overall revenue budget position for 2012/2013;
- the projected balances position as at 31 March, 2012 and 31 March, 2013 and advise on their level;
- a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2012/2013;
- a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015;
- views received from the North East Chamber of Commerce and Trade Unions.

They had therefore recommended that:

- (i) the notes of the meetings with the North East Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Unions be noted;
- (ii) the Revenue Budget for 2012/2013, as set out at Appendix I, be approved; and
- (iii) the medium term financial strategy 2011/2012 to 2014/2015 be noted.

### **4. Determination of Council Tax 2012/2013**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2012/2013 as summarised at Annex 1 of the report (copy circulated), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2012/2013, and advising that the Council Tax had been calculated using the tax bases for the areas of the City Council and Hetton Town Council as approved by Council on 25 January 2012, and setting out a number of resolutions required to be made to determine the Council Tax, including the confirmed precepts from the Major Precepting Authorities and the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

They therefore recommended that the report having advised of the statutory requirements to recommend to Council a proposed Council Tax Requirement which for Sunderland would mean a freeze to the Council Tax for 2012/2013, Council confirm the Council Tax Requirement for its own purposes is £96,302,324 (excluding Parish precepts), and

- i) it be noted that at its meeting on 25th January 2012 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2012/2013 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
  - a) £81,202 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the above regulation of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year (Item T).
  - b) £ 4,130 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations, as the amount of it's Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.
- ii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/2013 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:
  - a) £729,371,824 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - b) £633,015,356 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
  - c) £96,356,468 being the amount by which the aggregate at ii (a) above exceeds the aggregate at ii (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act)
  - d) £1,186.6268 being the amount at ii (c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (i (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

- e) £54,144 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 (1) of the Act.
- f) £1,185.9600 being the amount at ii (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at ii (e) above by the Item T (i (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- g) £1,199.0699 being the amount given by adding to the amount at ii (f) above the amount ii (e) divided by the amount at i (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

(h) Valuation Band	Parts of the Council's Area	
	Hetton Town Council	All other parts of the Council's Area
A	£ 799.38	£ 790.64
B	£ 932.61	£ 922.41
C	£ 1,065.84	£ 1,054.19
D	£ 1,199.07	£ 1,185.96
E	£ 1,465.53	£ 1,449.51
F	£ 1,731.99	£ 1,713.05
G	£ 1,998.45	£ 1,976.60
H	£ 2,398.14	£ 2,371.92

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at ii (f) and ii (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- iii) it be noted that for the year 2012/2013, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and Northumbria Police Authority have confirmed the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings as follows:



## Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Northumbria Police Authority	Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
A	£ 55.79	£ 48.77
B	£ 65.08	£ 56.90
C	£ 74.38	£ 65.03
D	£ 83.68	£ 73.16
E	£102.28	£ 89.42
F	£120.87	£105.68
G	£139.47	£121.93
H	£167.36	£146.32

- iv) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (ii) h and (iii) above, and having received confirmation of the precept in paragraph (iii), the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2012/2013 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands	Parts of the Council's Area	
	Hetton Town Council	All other parts of the Council's Area
A	£ 903.94	£ 895.20
B	£ 1,054.59	£ 1,044.39
C	£ 1,205.25	£ 1,193.60
D	£ 1,355.91	£ 1,342.80
E	£ 1,657.23	£ 1,641.21
F	£ 1,958.54	£ 1,939.60
G	£ 2,259.85	£ 2,238.00
H	£ 2,711.82	£ 2,685.60

- v) To note that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2012/2013 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed Council Tax Freeze for 2012/13 means that the Council does not need to hold a referendum on its proposed council tax. New regulations introduced by the government (Section 52ZC of the Local government Finance Act 1992) requires all billing authorities (councils and precept authorities (i.e. Fire and Police authorities)) to hold a referendum on their proposed level of basic Council tax each year from 2012/13 if they exceed government guidelines set out annually.

For 2012/13 the guideline increase for the council was 3.5%.

As the council is proposing a council tax freeze for 2012/13 then the above regulations have no impact for 2012/13).

It was then moved by Councillor P. Watson and seconded by Councillor H. Trueman that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted. Councillor Bell moved that the time limit for the Leader's speech to the motion be extended and upon being put to the meeting the procedural motion was agreed.

### **Leader Portfolio**

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an amendment that the Special Responsibility Allowances Line 11 be reduced by £36,764.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 9 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes	Morrissey	Vardy
	Francis	Oliver	Wood
	Maddison	D. Smith	A. Wright

And 44 Members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	D. Richardson	D. Trueman
	Ball	Hall	Scanlan	H. Trueman
	Bell	Heron	Scaplehorn	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scott	Walker
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Shattock	P. Watson
	Charlton	MacKnight	Smiles	S. Watson
	Curran	T. Martin	P. Smith	Williams
	Dixon	McClennan	Snowdon	Wilson
	Ellis	G. Miller	Speding	T.H. Wright
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	
	E. Gibson	Padgett	Thompson	

### **Leader Portfolio**

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved an amendment that Community News – Line 1 be deleted to make a saving of £82,925.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 12 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Dixon	Francis	Oliver	Wakefield
	Ellis	Maddison	D. Smith	Wood
	Forbes	Morrissey	Vardy	A. Wright

And 41 Members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	Hall	D. Richardson	Thompson
	Ball	Heron	Scanlan	D. Trueman
	Bell	Kelly	Scaplehorn	H. Trueman
	Blackburn	Lauchlan	Scott	Walker
	Bonallie	MacKnight	Shattock	P. Watson
	Charlton	T. Martin	Smiles	S. Watson
	Curran	McClennan	P. Smith	Williams
	Fletcher	G. Miller	Snowdon	Wilson
	E. Gibson	Mordey	Speding	T.H. Wright
	P. Gibson	Padgett	Tate	

### Deputy Leader Portfolio

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved that the grant to Tyne and Wear Anti-Fascist Association – Line 3 be deleted to make a saving of £8,000.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 9 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes	Morrissey	Vardy
	Francis	Oliver	Wood
	Maddison	D. Smith	A. Wright

And 44 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	D. Richardson	D. Trueman
	Ball	Hall	Scanlan	H. Trueman
	Bell	Heron	Scaplehorn	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scott	Walker
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Shattock	P. Watson
	Charlton	MacKnight	Smiles	S. Watson
	Curran	T. Martin	P. Smith	Williams
	Dixon	McClennan	Snowdon	Wilson
	Ellis	G. Miller	Speding	T.H. Wright
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	
	E. Gibson	Padgett	Thompson	

## **Deputy Leader Portfolio**

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved an amendment that staff time released to support Union responsibilities – Line 5 be reduced to make a saving of £154,665.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 9 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Dixon	Maddison	Vardy
	Forbes	Morrissey	Wood
	Francis	Oliver	A. Wright

And 1 Member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor Wakefield

And 41 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	Hall	D. Richardson	Tate
	Bell	Heron	Scanlan	Thompson
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scaplehorn	D. Trueman
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Scott	H. Trueman
	Charlton	MackKnight	Shattock	Walker
	Curran	T. Martin	Smiles	P. Watson
	Ellis	McClennan	D. Smith	S. Watson
	Fletcher	G. Miller	P. Smith	Williams
	E. Gibson	Mordey	Snowdon	T.H. Wright
	P. Gibson	Padgett	Speding	

## **Deputy Leader Portfolio**

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an amendment that training budget to support apprenticeships – Line 5 be increased at a cost of £22,880.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 9 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Ellis	Maddison	Wakefield
	Forbes	Morrissey	Wood
	Francis	Oliver	A. Wright

And 1 Member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor D. Smith

And 42 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	Padgett	Thompson
	Ball	Hall	D. Richardson	D. Trueman
	Bell	Heron	Scanlan	H. Trueman
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Walker
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Scott	P. Watson
	Charlton	MacKnight	Shattock	S. Watson
	Curran	T. Martin	Smiles	Williams
	P. Dixon	McClennan	P. Smith	Wilson
	Fletcher	G. Miller	Snowdon	T.H. Wright
	E. Gibson	Mordey	Speding	

### Health and Well Being Portfolio

Councillor A. Wright, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an amendment that the Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay to support – Feasibility Study for Crowtree Leisure Centre Redevelopment be increased at a cost of £30,000.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 6 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes	Maddison	Wood
	Francis	Oliver	A. Wright

And 45 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	D. Richardson	Thompson
	Ball	Hall	Scanlan	D. Trueman
	Bell	Heron	Scaplehorn	H. Trueman
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scott	Wakefield
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Shattock	Walker
	Charlton	MacKnight	Smiles	P. Watson
	Curran	T. Martin	D. Smith	S. Watson
	Dixon	McClennan	P. Smith	Williams
	Ellis	G. Miller	Snowdon	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Speding	T.H. Wright
	E. Gibson	Padgett	Tate	

### Attractive and Inclusive City Portfolio

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an amendment that free parking for multi-storey car parks be introduced with a reduction in car park income – Line 8 at a cost of £181,447.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 9 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Dixon	Morrissey	Wakefield
	Forbes	Oliver	Wood
	Francis	Vardy	A. Wright

And 42 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	Padgett	Speding
	Ball	Hall	D. Richardson	Tate
	Bell	Heron	Scanlan	Thompson
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scaplehorn	D. Trueman
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Scott	H. Trueman
	Charlton	MacKnight	Shattock	Walker
	Curran	T. Martin	Smiles	S. Watson
	Ellis	McClennan	D. Smith	Williams
	Fletcher	G. Miller	P. Smith	Wilson
	E. Gibson	Mordey	Snowdon	T.H. Wright

### **Attractive and Inclusive City Portfolio**

Councillor Morrissey, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an amendment that the Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay be increased to support Increased Highway Maintenance at a cost of £24,013.

A general discussion then ensued and upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 7 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes	Morrissey	Vardy	A. Wright
	Francis	Oliver	Wood	

And 44 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan	Hall	Scanlan	D. Trueman
	Ball	Heron	Scaplehorn	H. Trueman
	Bell	Kelly	Scott	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Lauchlan	Shattock	Walker
	Bonallie	MacKnight	Smiles	P. Watson
	Charlton	T. Martin	D. Smith	S. Watson
	Curran	McClennan	P. Smith	Williams
	Ellis	G. Miller	Snowdon	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Speding	T.H. Wright
	E. Gibson	Padgett	Tate	
	P. Gibson	D. Richardson	Thompson	

## Attractive and Inclusive City Portfolio

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Francis, moved an amendment to increase Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay to support Increased Seafront development at a cost of £24,014.

Upon being put to the vote, the Amendment was defeated with 7 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes Francis	Morrissey Oliver	Vardy Wood	A. Wright
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And 44 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kay)

Councillors	Allan Ball Bell Blackburn Bonallie Charlton Curran Ellis Fletcher E. Gibson P. Gibson	Hall Heron Kelly Lauchlan MacKnight T. Martin McClennan G. Miller Mordey Padgett D. Richardson	Scanlan Scaplehorn Scott Shattock Smiles D. Smith P. Smith Snowdon Speding Tate Thompson	D. Trueman H. Trueman Wakefield Walker P. Watson S. Watson Williams Wilson T.H. Wright
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A general discussion then ensued and the substantive motion to approve and adopt the report of the Cabinet was put to the meeting and agreed and it was:-

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

(Signed) N. WRIGHT,  
Mayor.