

CITY HALL,
SUNDERLAND.
8 March 2024

TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING of Sunderland City Council to be held in the **Council Chamber, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA** on **WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024** at **4.00pm** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business:-

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. To read the Notice convening the meeting | - |
| 2. Apologies | - |
| 3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2024 (copy attached). | 1 |
| 4. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any). | - |
| 5. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e). | - |
| 6. To consider the Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meeting of the Council held 24 January 2024 (copy attached). | 23 |
| 7. Reception of Petitions. | - |
| 8. Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 10. | - |

9.	Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 11.	-
10.	Report of the Cabinet (copy attached).	29
11.	To consider a report on action taken on petitions (copy attached).	41
12.	To consider the following reports: -	
	(i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached).	47
	(ii) Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	49
13.	To consider the attached Motions (copy attached).	53



PATRICK MELIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

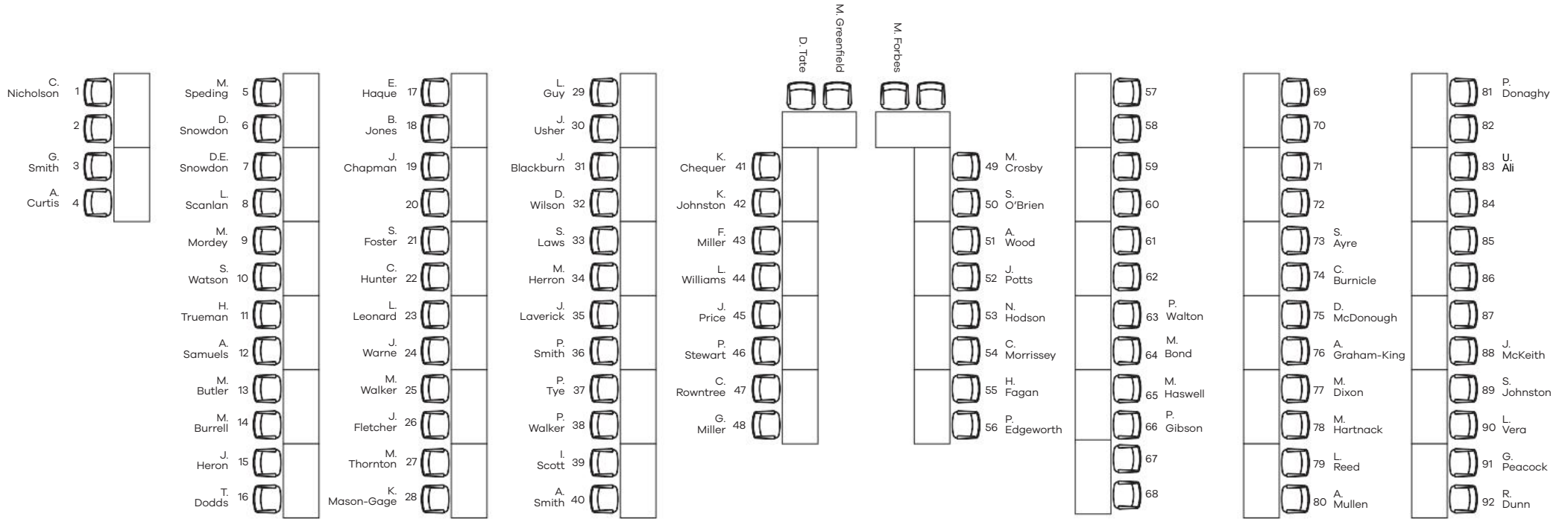
Note it is intended that the meeting will be livestreamed for the public to view on the Council's YouTube channel at

<https://youtube.com/live/AgbID20B5Oo?feature=share>

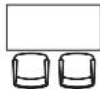
Chief Officer seating



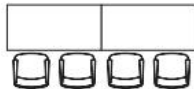
Honorary Aldermen



AV Access



Governance Services



Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Ayre	Gibson	McKeith	Smith, G
	Blackburn	Graham-King	Miller, F	Smith, P
	Bond	Guy	Miller, G	Snowdon, D
	Burnicle	Haque	Mordey	Snowdon, D E
	Burrell	Hartnack	Morrissey	Speding
	Butler	Haswell	Mullen	Stewart
	Chequer	Heron	O'Brien	Thornton
	Crosby	Herron	Peacock	Trueman, H
	Curtis	Hodson	Potts	Tye
	Dixon	Hunter	Price	Usher
	Dodds	Johnston, K	Reed	Vera
	Donaghy	Johnston, S	Rowntree	Walker, P
	Dunn	Jones	Samuels	Warne
	Edgeworth	Laverick	Scanlan	Williams
	Fagan	Laws	Scott	Wood
	Fletcher	Leonard	Smith, A	Wilson
	Foster			

Also Present: -

Honorary Alderman Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chapman, Mason-Gage, McDonough, Nicholson, M Walker, Walton and Wood together with Honorary Aldermen Forbes and Tate

Minutes

48. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 January 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Cllr Blackburn	Member of GMB
Cllr Butler	Member of Unison
Cllr Chequer	Member of Unite and partner employed by Everyone Active
Cllr Chisnall	Member of Unison
Cllr Dunn	Employed by Ascent Academies Trust – Barbara Priestman Academy
Cllr Fletcher	Member of GMB and Director of SCAS Ltd.
Cllr Guy	Member of Unite
Cllr Herron	Member of Unison
Cllr K Johnston	Member of Unite and employed by Everyone Active
Cllr S Johnston	Member of NASUWT
Cllr Jones	Member of Unison
Cllr Laverick	Member of Unite
Cllr Laws	Member of Unite
Cllr Leonard	Member of Unison
Cllr McKeith	Governor at Fulwell Junior School and Allotment Holder
Cllr F Miller	Member of Unite
Cllr G Miller	Member of GMB
Cllr Mordey	Member of GMB
Cllr Rowntree	Member of Unison
Cllr Samuels	Member of Unite and Unison Staff Member
Cllr Scott	Member of Unison
Cllr P Smith	Member of GMB and Gentoo Board Member

Cllr D Snowdon	Employee of Sunderland City Council, employed by charity which receives funding from the authority, Trustee of Millenium Centre Washington and Governor at Barmston Village Primary School.
Cllr D E Snowdon	Member of Unison, employee of Sunderland City Council, Trustee of Washington Mind, Chair of Columbia Community Association and husband employed by charity which receives funding from the authority.
Cllr Speding	Member of GMB, Member of the Football Association and Chair of the Durham County Football Association
Cllr Stewart	Member of Unison and Director of Bishopwearmouth Co-operative Nursery
Cllr H Trueman	Member of the Communication Workers Union
Cllr P Walker	Member of Unison and Gentoo Sub-Branch Secretary
Cllr Williams	Director of SCAS Ltd and Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust

Announcements

Former Councillor Alan Wright

It was with sadness that the Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Alan Wright.

Former Councillor Wright served as a Conservative member of the Council representing St Chad's Ward between May 2008 and May 2012. He served on a number of committees including Planning and Highways and was Vice-Chair of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee. He was also Chair of Governors at East Herrington Primary, a governor at Barnes Juniors and Chair of the Barnes Residents' Association. Former Councillor Wright was President of Sunderland Conservatives and Election Agent for Barnes.

The Mayor invited the Council to join her in sending condolences to the family and friends of Alan Wright and in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

That they had referred the initial proposals on the Revenue Budget to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee: -

- On 12 October 2023, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 – 2027/2028 report which was referred from the October Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report including the medium-term financial plan and budget planning framework and was satisfied with the information provided.

The Committee also recommended that serious consideration was once again given to limiting any rises in council tax given the current financial climate and the impact that this would have on residents of the City.

The Committee also acknowledged the work undertaken around the budget consultation and updating the Capital Strategy. The Committee remained committed to budget monitoring through further updates to the Committee and had no further comments to make at the time.

- On 7 December 2023, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 – 2027/2028 report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report including the medium-term financial and budget planning framework and acknowledged the budget saving proposals as well as the remaining overall budget gap.

The Committee recognised the difficult financial situation that the Council continued to operate within and remained focused on monitoring the budget position through updates provided at the Committee and had no further comments to make at the time.

- On 8 February 2024, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered Budget and Service Reports on Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024, Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 reports which were referred from the 31 January Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted and acknowledged the information in the various reports as was presented.

The Committee also acknowledged the financial pressures on the Council and its services as detailed throughout the report and noted the recommended Council Tax increase for 2024/25, which still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the outcome of the budget consultation that was undertaken.

Finally, the Committee recognised the work of Officers and Members in preparing the budgetary information presented to the committee and to other key stakeholders

and had no further comments to make.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 – 2027/2028 to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee: -

- On 7 December 2023, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 – 2027/2028 and Capital Strategy report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report including the overall capital commitments for the coming financial year, as well as the additional capital new start projects.

The Committee had nothing further to add at the time.

That they had also submitted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and prudential indicators within the attached report numbered 1 to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee: -

- On 2 February 2024, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2024/2025.

The Committee noted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2024/2025 and the Prudential Treasury Management Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028.

The Committee noted the Borrowing and Investment Strategies contained within the report and that the Council continued to follow and adhere to fundamental principles in relation to the prudent investment of treasury balances. The Committee commended the work of officers in achieving a very positive treasury management performance over a number of years and were satisfied that sound arrangements were in place to enable this to continue.

The Committee noted their responsibility for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies and that they would continue to receive quarterly performance reports.

Subsequently;

The following precept figures had been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 31 January 2024:

- The precept figures of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria (PCCN) would mean an increase of £13 (7.69%) at a Band D in the precept level for 2024/2025; and
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council would mean an increase of 2% in the precept level for 2024/2025.

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority had supplied its best estimate of their proposed precepts pending their meeting on 19 February 2024 and should any changes to the proposed precepts arise, a supplementary report would be prepared

and circulated. The proposed precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFRA) would mean an increase of 2.99% in the precept level for 2024/2025.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2024/2025 reflected the above notified 2024/2025 precept levels in respect of the Precepting Authorities.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 below entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028”, Appendix F had not been printed with this item, but the recommendation, which included all of the substantive content of the report, was set out in full at item 3 overleaf.

1. Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

That they had considered the attached report of the Director of Finance on:

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/2025;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2024/2025 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028; and
- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/2025.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/2025;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2024/2025 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/2025.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

That they had considered the report of the Director of Finance which was at the following link [[Cabinet 31 January 2024](#)] on:

- (a) the overall revenue budget position for 2024/2025;
- (b) the projected reserves position as at 31st March 2024 and 31st March 2025 and advise on their sufficiency;

- (c) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2024/2025;
- (d) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2024/2025 to 2027/2028, and associated Council Efficiency strategy;
- (e) any views received from residents, the local Business Sector, Trade Unions, Schools Forum, Change Council and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on the proposed budget; and
- (f) the updated City Plan 2024-2035 including the indicative timeline.

The attached report of the Director of Finance to Council set out the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 as recommended by Cabinet and updated to reflect the outcome of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement which was published on 5th February 2024. The Final Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed an increase in Core Spending Power for the Council of 7.8% based on the Government's assumption of a 4.99% increase in council tax with the ringfenced funding for Social Care confirmed in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement following significant lobbying to the Government through the provisional settlement consultation earmarked for that purpose within contingencies.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2024/2025 set out at Appendix J;
- (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 including Efficiency Strategy as set out in Appendix G and the potential use of Capital Receipts Flexibility set out at section 9 of the report; and
- (iii) the adoption of the updated City Plan 2024-2035 including the indicative timeline.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2024/2025

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2024/2025 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2024/2025, and advising that the Council Tax was calculated using the tax bases for the areas of the City Council and Hetton Town Council as approved by Council on 24 January 2024, 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 Hetton Town Council.

They therefore recommended to Council: -

- (i) to confirm the council tax requirement for the Council for 2024/2025 for its own purposes is £128,023,844 (excluding Parish precepts) and which

represents a 4.99% increase in council tax for 2024/2025. It should be noted that this includes the additional ringfenced social care precept of 2%.

- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 24 January 2024 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2024/2025 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
- a) 74,484 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 amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its council tax base for the year (Item T).
 - b) 4,267 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the regulations, as the amount of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.
- (iii) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/2025 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
- a) £806,459,315 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) £678,372,533 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - c) £128,086,782 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii) (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year including Parish precepts (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - d) £1,719.6550 being the amount at (iii) (c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T ((ii) (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) £62,938 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 of the Act.

- f) £1,718.8100 being the amount at (iii) (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii) (e) above by the Item T ((ii) (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) £1,733.5599 being the amount given by adding to the amount at (iii) (f) above, the amount at (iii) (e) divided by the amount at (ii) (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 HettonTown Council.
- h) Charges relating to the Council

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,155.71	1,145.87
B	1,348.32	1,336.85
C	1,540.94	1,527.83
D	1,733.56	1,718.81
E	2,118.80	2,100.77
F	2,504.03	2,482.73
G	2,889.27	2,864.68
H	3,467.12	3,437.62

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii) (f) and (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.

- (iv) it be noted that for the year 2024/2025, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria have confirmed the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	121.23	63.41
B	141.43	73.97
C	161.64	84.54
D	181.84	95.11
E	222.25	116.25
F	262.66	137.38
G	303.07	158.52
H	363.68	190.22

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii) (h) and (iv) above and the estimated precepts in paragraph (iv), 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 2024/2025 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,340.35	1,330.51
B	1,563.72	1,552.25
C	1,787.12	1,774.01
D	2,010.51	1,995.76
E	2,457.30	2,439.27
F	2,904.07	2,882.77
G	3,350.86	3,326.27
H	4,021.02	3,991.52

- (vi) To determine that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/2025 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed council tax increase for 2024/2025 means that the Council does not need to hold a referendum on its proposed council tax. The provisions set out in Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require 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 if they exceed government guidelines set out annually.)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved the report of the Council.

The following Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Conservative Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Mullen and seconded by Councillor Reed.

Revenue Budget

Savings

i)	Reallocate part of the Neighbourhood Fund to immediate priorities	£1,000,000
ii)	Reduction in the Corporate Affairs and Communications budget	£500,000
iii)	Reduction in the Events budget	£207,144
iv)	Reduction in the Carbon Budget	£944,000
v)	Cuts to councillors' allowances	£225,325
vi)	Paperless model for agendas and magazine	£100,680
vii)	Reduce Member Support budget	£59,000
viii)	Reduction in Japan/American funding	£63,000
ix)	Reduction in TU facility time	£120,000
x)	Revised profit projection for the Port	£50,000
xi)	End chauffeur driven cars for the Mayor and Labour Cabinet	£42,190
xii)	Abolish councillors' expenses budget	£35,000
	TOTAL	£3,346,339

Spending

i)	Reduction in Labour's Council Tax Increase	£1,219,306
ii)	Return Free After 3 Parking across the city centre	£90,000
iii)	Introduce Free After 3 Parking at the seafront at Seaburn and Roker	£140,000
iv)	Make CPMS parking permits free	£122,220
v)	Implement 10 School Streets Schemes	£500,000

vi)	Introduce 100 new bins across the city	£34,200
vii)	Christmas Tree in Roker	£15,070
viii)	City-wide referendum	£380,000
ix)	15 new Civil Enforcement Officers	£548,265
x)	10 new grit bins	£5,010
vi)	Airshow sponsorship manager	£56,190
vii)	3 Park and Cemetery Wardens	£110,421
viii)	Revenue contribution to the Road and Pavement repair fund	£125,657
TOTAL		£3,346,339

Capital Budget

Savings

(i)	Delete the remaining F-Pit Budget	£4,300,000
(ii)	Reallocate the VAS budget to an anti-speeding infrastructure fund	£50,000

TOTAL **£4,350,000**

Capital Budget

Spending

i)	Introduce traffic lights at the Ettrick Grove/Durham Road Junction	£2,000,000
ii)	Install inclusive play equipment in Barnes Park	£100,000
iii)	Build a new play park at Howick Park	£200,000
iv)	Road and pavement repair fund	£1,362,650
v)	Anti-speeding infrastructure fund	£500,000
vi)	Fulwell War Memorial upgrade	£50,000

vii)	Replace the railings and hanging baskets in Roker Avenue	£137,350
viii)	Develop and deliver, on a commercial basis, a Padel tennis court at Silksworth Tennis Centre	£0

TOTAL **£4,350,000**

Following the raising of a point of order, the Mayor informed the meeting that proposal viii) under “Spending” in respect of the Conservative Group’s amendments to the Revenue Budget would be disallowed and the remainder of the Conservative Group’s amendments to the Revenue and Capital Budget were then put to the vote with 21 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Ayre	Edgeworth	Haswell	O'Brien
	Bond	Fagan	Hodson	Peacock
	Burnicle	Gibson	Johnston, S	Potts
	Crosby	Graham-King	Morrissey	Reed
	Dixon	Hartnack	Mullen	Vera
	Dunn			

44 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Herron	Rowntree	Stewart
	Burrell	Hunter	Samuels	Thornton
	Butler	Johnston, K	Scanlan	Trueman, H
	Chequer	Jones	Scott	Tye
	Curtis	Laverick	Smith, A	Usher
	Dodds	Laws	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Donaghy	Leonard	Smith, P	Warne
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Snowdon, D	Williams
	Guy	Miller, G	Snowdon, D E	Wood
	Haque	Mordey	Speding	Wilson
	Heron	Price		

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The proposed amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats in Opposition was moved by Councillor Edgeworth and seconded by Councillor Fagan.

The Amendment to the proposals was as follows: -

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget

Revenue (Savings)	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3, as outlined in proposal number 2.	(100,000)
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees (and three Neighbourhood Boards) giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs.	(33,254)
Reduce Special Responsibility Allowances and councillor expenses in line with the Liberal Democrats submission to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% reduction in basic allowance. • Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Member SRAs reduced by 20% and then reduced subject to political grouping's percentage control of the Council based on 100% control. • Leader of Majority Party in Opposition reduction by calculating as 25% of the revised, lower Leader SRA as above. • Leader of the Minority Party in Opposition reduction by calculating as 50% of the revised, lower Leader of the Majority Party in Opposition SRA as above. • Abolish SRAs for Deputy Cabinet Members. • Reduce SRA for Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to £4,143. • Reduce SRAs for Chairs of Area Committees to £8,280. • Reduce SRAs for Chairs of Thematic Scrutiny Committees, Planning and Highways Committee and Licensing and Regulatory Committee by 20%. • Reduce SRA for Audit and Governance Committee Chairman and Independent members of committees by 20%. • Abolish positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and associated SRAs and replace with unpaid elected Chairperson. • Change travel allowances policy so expense can only be claimed when travelling outside the North East region. • Abolish all provision for subsistence claims. • Abolish all provision for reimbursement of broadband and telephone costs. 	(254,467)
Remove the Corporate Communications budget, including retainers with Creo Communications and Different Narrative.	(1,143,500)
Scrap residents survey and resident newsletter.	(113,370)

Remove budget for carbon reduction.	(944,000)
Additional Day off for staff not applied to Chief Officer Group and Assistant Directors.	0
End spending on existing tobacco control and alcohol denormalisation programmes delivered by Balance North East when existing contract expires on 30/09/2024 and reallocate spending towards an assistance programme to be made available free of charge to city residents and small and medium-sized enterprises in City Council area. Assistance programme schemes must provide for free counselling sessions, life event support, addiction support, quitting and reduction advice and healthy lifestyle support.	0
Introduce a full paperless system for meeting agendas and documents, unless there is an accessibility issue which requires hard copy documents as a reasonable adjustment.	(18,000)
End use of council vehicles for travel for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, cabinet members and councillors.	(42,190)
Scrap Mayors hospitality Budget including provision of alcohol cellar and providing free food to guests.	(3,835)
Scrap foreign travel Budget and prohibit internal flights for Council staff and elected members when travelling within the United Kingdom (except for business travel to and from the North of Ireland).	(29,519)
End free parking for councillors at St Mary's car park.	(8,500)
Stop all funding and sponsorship for award ceremonies both hosted and attended by the Council.	(49,250)
Cancel subscriptions for the following membership organisations the Council is part of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative Councils Innovation Network • Industrial Communities Alliance • Key Cities • Local Government Information Unit • New Local Government Network • Healthy Cities Network 	(56,258)
Total Revenue (Savings)	(2,796,143)

Revenue (Spending)	£
Reduce Council Tax increase by 1.6%.	1,950,740

Make permanent additional environmental services staff employed via area committees. (3 x Grade 6 FTE Env Enforcement Officers +1 x Grade 6 FTE ASB Officer + 2 x Grade 4 FTE Environmental Support Officers.)	250,000
Allocate a further £184,035 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens).	184,035
Reverse any planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2024/25.	7,615
Free second permit for residents in CPMS areas.	21,800
Create a new Big Wheelie Bin Fund to assist households who need a larger (360 litre) bin, providing 219 larger bins or the substitution of approximately 405 standard bins with large bins.	8,097
Reverse the 2024/25 increase in brown bin charges.	88,575
Extend brown bin collection by an additional 2 collections per year.	79,079
Re-instate 'Free after 3' parking in all city centre car parks it applied to.	90,000
Introduce 'Free after 3' parking in the Riverside Multi-Story Parking.	8,100
Hold School Street trial at Highfield Academy.	35,000
Hire 2 full time traffic wardens dedicated solely to enforcement issues along Durham, Chester and Hylton Roads and neighbouring streets.	73,102
Total Revenue (Spending)	2,796,143

Amendment 2 – Capital Budget

2024/25 Capital Budget (Savings) Proposals	£
Reallocate Washington F Pit Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvements (CP0541).	(4,300,000)
Scrap uncommitted budget associated with provision of new city boundary signs (CP0398).	(70,000)
Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of the residual Budget (CP0495).	(120,000)
Capital Budget Savings Proposals total	(4,490,000)

Capital Budget Spending Proposals	£
Additional investment in the Highways Maintenance budget to repair roads and footpaths.	1,230,655
Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford / Pennywell Area.	10,000

Feasibility study into establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton and Washington.	30,000
Feasibility study into Council supporting development of a local supermarket in Hendon and subsequent provision of support.	600,000
Camera for School Streets trial at Highfield Academy	15,000
Propose acquiring and redeveloping vacant Wear Tavern building in Pallion for housing and commercial use.	916,345
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill roundabout to provide a safe ground-level alternative to the existing subway.	750,000
Installation of a new bus shelter at Phoenix Road bus terminus, Pennywell, SR4 0ED.	10,000
Installation of a permanent enforcement camera to prevent (and issue fines for) illegal parking on Ebdon Lane, Fulwell.	28,000
Convert existing zebra crossing outside Seaburn Metro on Station Road, Fulwell to a Pelican crossing.	100,000
Install pelican crossing adjacent to 3 Whitburn Bents Road.	110,000
Install pelican crossing at Front Road/Fordfield Road junction.	100,000
Install pelican crossing at Springwell Road near Springwell Medical Centre.	200,000
Install physical barrier across 1 of the 2 lanes at junction of Derby Street and Tunstall Road, so only 1 lane out of the street is accessible for cars exiting using the one-way system.	30,000
Install pelican crossing on Tunstall Road near junction with Tunstall Terrace.	125,000
Install 2 chicanes on Westmoor Road to slow traffic.	45,000
Install 2 chicanes on Midmoor Road to slow traffic.	45,000
Install 2 chicanes on Grey Road, between junctions with Toward Road and Suffolk Street, to slow traffic.	45,000
Narrow Durham Road to one lane between junctions with Elwin Terrace and Beechwood Street to prevent speeding.	100,000
Capital Spending Budget Proposals Total	4,490,000

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrat Group in Opposition was put to the vote with 22 Members voting in favour:

Councillors	Ayre	Dunn	Haswell	O'Brien
	Bond	Edgeworth	Hodson	Peacock
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S	Potts
	Crosby	Gibson	Morrissey	Reed
	Dixon	Graham-King	Mullen	Vera
	Donaghy	Hartnack		

42 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Mordey	Speding
	Burrell	Herron	Price	Stewart
	Butler	Hunter	Rowntree	Thornton
	Chequer	Johnston, K	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Curtis	Jones	Scanlan	Tye
	Dodds	Laverick	Scott	Usher
	Fletcher	Laws	Smith, A	Walker, P
	Foster	Leonard	Smith, P	Williams
	Guy	Miller, F	Snowdon, D	Wood
	Haque	Miller, G	Snowdon, D E	Wilson

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The original motion that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted was then put to the vote with 42 Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Chisnall)

Councillors	Blackburn	Herron	Price	Speding
	Butler	Hunter	Rowntree	Stewart
	Chequer	Johnston, K	Samuels	Thornton
	Curtis	Jones	Scanlan	Trueman, H
	Dodds	Laverick	Scott	Tye
	Fletcher	Laws	Smith, A	Usher
	Foster	Leonard	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Guy	Miller, F	Smith, P	Williams
	Haque	Miller, G	Snowdon, D	Wood
	Heron	Mordey	Snowdon, D E	Wilson

22 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Ayre	Dunn	Haswell	O'Brien
	Bond	Edgeworth	Hodson	Peacock
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S	Potts
	Crosby	Gibson	Morrissey	Reed
	Dixon	Graham-King	Mullen	Vera
	Donaghy	Hartnack		

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly, it was: -

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

(Signed) D TRUEMAN
Mayor

***Motions on Notice
Outstanding from the Last
Ordinary Meeting of the
Council***

MOTIONS ON NOTICE OUTSTANDING FROM THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions: -

1. Notice of Motion – A Smart City That Doesn't Leave Anyone Behind

Council agrees to ask the Cabinet to review how council services are offered in Sunderland and to take appropriate steps to make sure that:

- (i) everyone in our city can access services even if they cannot or do not want to do so digitally
- (ii) the Council's goal is that the cost of services does not differ depending on whether you pay using cash or whether you use electronic payment methods
- (iii) nobody is put under undue pressure to access a service digitally if they are not able to do so independently and that analogue access is provided efficiently, effectively and without barriers. This should include a review of policies governing telephone calls by residents to the Council's Customer Service Network.

Proposed by Councillor Heather Fagan
Seconded by Councillor Malcolm Bond

2. Notice of Motion – Minimum Quality Guarantee for Road Repairs

Councillors of all parties are frustrated when roads are resurfaced to a poor standard and have to be resurfaced again within a short timeframe. Council recognises this as a false economy - and one which is resulting in a waste of taxpayers' money.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to instigate a review of contract terms for road and pavement repairs, to ensure that the Council receives a good quality service from subcontractors, and to explore options for instituting a regular inspection regime, so that officers are assured that a minimum quality standard has been met or otherwise take action when it has not.

Proposed by Councillor Gregg Peacock
Seconded by Councillor Michael Dixon

3. Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland

The transition from Grace House to the newly acquired Red Gables site, set to open in summer 2024, will see parents of disabled and vulnerable children go without overnight support for a number of months.

Members agree that, in future, the Council must better prepare for its provision of short-term respite care, including overnight care, as some families are now being moved from one site of provision to another for the third time in seven years.

Council therefore agrees to a package of measures designed to improve the care and support available to disabled young people, whose disabilities are not catered for by existing services, including:

- Ensuring future decisions regarding short-break respite care arrangements are discussed with members, service users and as part of the scrutiny process rather than being decided at executive level.
- That families and children displaced from Grace House are made priority for placements at Red Gables and that these should be offered on a like for like basis.
- That a wider review of respite care is undertaken to ensure that a range of support (including overnight breaks, after school, weekend and holiday, and inclusive play and support groups) is available for different types of disability and special educational need. A report, following this review, should be presented to Children, Learning and Skills Scrutiny.

Council also agrees to request the Director of Children's Services to present a report to Scrutiny on how staffing, recruitment and retention needs for the new Red Gables facility will be met, in advance of it opening.

Proposed by Councillor Antony Mullen
Seconded by Councillor Lyall Reed

4. Notice of Motion – Rescind Ed Davey's Knighthood

The Post Office Horizon IT scandal led to the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history.

Subpostmasters across the country - including in Sunderland - were wrongly convicted of a crime they did not commit.

The ITV drama on this subject has ignited public anger about this case - and exposed the wrongdoing of those who declined to help.

When the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance (JFSA) asked to meet Lib Dem Leader Ed Davey - the then Minister for Postal Affairs, who served in a government department headed by Lib Dem Vince Cable - he declined, saying that it would serve no purpose.

As Conservative MP David Davis and Labour MP Kevan Jones jointly led a campaign to help the victims of this injustice, Davey took the side of the Post Office Ltd and showed a lack of leadership in not even questioning the organisational account which he now describes as a lie.

He is undeserving of the knighthood awarded to him for public service.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, departmental head of the Cabinet Office, to inform him that this Council requests that the honours committee review the knighthood awarded to Ed Davey for public service.
- Support all subpostmasters, but particularly those who operated from Sunderland, in their case for a quicker compensation process to be introduced.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Hartnack
 Seconded by Councillor Antony Mullen

5. Notice of Motion – CPMS Charges

Community Parking Management Scheme (CPMS) zones are a necessary tool of last resort to deal with parking problems in residential areas.

These parking issues are not caused by the residents who live there, but by people from out the area. Yet it is residents who have to pay to park outside of their own home - and this is unfair.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Eliminate the cost of a second parking permit entirely for all households in CPMS zones
- Remove administrative costs relating to the registration of new vehicles when a resident changes car

Proposed by Councillor Richard Dunn
 Seconded by Councillor Adele Graham-King

Additional Signatories

Cllr Antony Mullen		
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Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows: -

1. Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/2025

That at its meeting to be held on 14 March 2024, Cabinet will give consideration to a joint report of the Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached) presenting the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025 in order for the Cabinet to make appropriate recommendations to Council.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

CABINET MEETING – 14 MARCH 2024
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report: Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/2025	
Author(s): Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Law and Governance	
Purpose of Report: To present the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in order for Cabinet to make recommendations to Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.	
Description of Decision: To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes	
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2024/2025, as this is a statutory requirement.	
Impacts analysed;	
Equality	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Privacy	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Sustainability	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Crime and Disorder	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes	
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? No	
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? No	

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – 2024/2025**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE****1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in order for Cabinet to make recommendations to Council in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.

2. Description of decision

- 2.1 To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is required to adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme for each financial year and to do so before the beginning of each new year. It is also required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to Council about the allowances to be paid to elected members under the Scheme.
- 3.2 The Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Law and Governance have delegated authority to appoint up to six members to a "pool" from which they may convene Panels of no less than three members. Three new members have recently been recruited to the pool, however they have not yet had the opportunity to become familiar with the Council's governance arrangements and to receive information regarding the various roles and responsibilities of members. The new panel members are therefore not in a position to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to recommend any changes, in time for the Council to adopt the Scheme for 2024/2025. In the circumstances, the Panel has recommended that the Council continue with the terms of its current Scheme for the 2024/2025 year and that a detailed review be held during 2024/2025. This would provide the opportunity for the new members to receive information regarding the Council's arrangements and be in a position to consider whether or not to recommend any changes. The Panel will be able to consider recommending changes in respect of the Scheme for the following

year, 2025/2026, and there will also be scope for the Panel to consider whether to recommend any amendments to the Scheme for 2024/2025.

- 3.3 When making or amending a Scheme, the Council is required to have regard to the Panel's recommendations.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2024/2025, as this is a statutory requirement.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The costs of the Scheme are included within the Council's revenue budget for 2024/2025.

Background papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024/2025

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Council of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council must adopt a Scheme before 1st April each year and before making or amending a Scheme, must have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel. This report sets out the Panel's recommendations for the Scheme for the financial year 2024/2025.

3. Panel's Recommendations

- 3.1 In view of the recent recruitment of three new members to the pool from which Panels are convened, it is necessary for the newly appointed members to have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Council's governance arrangements and to receive information regarding the various roles and responsibilities of members, before they can consider whether it would be appropriate to recommend any amendments to the Scheme.
- 3.2 In the circumstances, the Panel recommends that the Council continues to apply the terms of the current Scheme (for 2023/2024) during the financial year 2024/2025 and that a detailed review be undertaken during 2024/2025, so that the Panel may consider whether to recommend any amendments to the Scheme for 2024/2025 and / or future Schemes.
- 3.3 The terms of the Scheme are summarised in the Appendix to this report.

Karen Straughair (Chair)
Stuart Green
Alan Fletcher

Ray Morris
Joyce Drummond-Hill

February 2024

Appendix

Type of Allowance	Amount per annum £
Basic Allowance	8,369
 Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader of the Council	37,667
Deputy Leader of the Council	25,111
Cabinet Secretary	25,111
Cabinet Member with Portfolio	20,716
Deputy Cabinet Member*	12,556
 Leader of the Majority Group in Opposition - allowance calculated as a percentage of Leader's SRA, up to maximum of 25%.	
 Leader of the second largest Group in Opposition – allowance calculated as a percentage of the Majority Opposition Group Leader's allowance, up to a maximum of 50%	
 Chair of the following:	
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	12,556
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	5,179
Area Committee	10,350
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	8,369
Planning and Highways Committee	8,369
 Vice Chair of the following:	
Area Committee	6,277
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	4,184
Planning and Highways Committee	4,184
 Co-optees' Allowances	
Audit and Governance Committee	
Chairman	5,000
Independent member	2,500

Mayoral

Mayoral Allowance	12,000
Deputy Mayoral	6,000

Carer's allowance

Actual expenditure up to a maximum of the equivalent of the current National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage hourly rate, as appropriate, dependent upon the age of the worker. The rate applicable shall be subject to automatic increases in line with uprating of the Adult National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage.

Travel Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

Motor Cycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle Allowance	20p per mile
Car Allowance	45p per mile for first 10,000 mile and 25p thereafter

Passenger Supplement 5p per mile for the passenger (not exceeding 4)

The above rates match His Majesty's Revenues and Customs authorised mileage rates and will be updated when HMRC publishes revised allowances

Subsistence Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

In the case of absence from the usual place of residence for a continuous period which exceeds 4 hours but does not involve an overnight absence, subsistence is payable as per the table set out below:

Breakfast Allowance	£6.22
Lunch Allowance	£8.55
Tea Allowance	£3.37
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.59

The subsistence rates shall be reduced as shown below in respect of meals provided free of charge by any authority or body during the period to which the allowance relates.

Reduction of Subsistence Allowance for Meals Provided Free of charge:

Reduction for Breakfast provided	£6.22
Lunch provided	£8.55
Tea provided	£3.37
Dinner provided	£10.59

Overnight Accommodation

The allowance will not be claimable as an allowance as such, rather reasonable costs of an overnight stay (including breakfast) will be met for business class accommodation (3 star or 4 star) within and outside of London. Unless there are exceptional circumstances the Council will book the accommodation direct selecting the most economic option available and utilising the established procurement arrangements in place. Where exceptional circumstances exist, these will be approved in advance by the Director of Finance and reasonable costs will be reimbursed subject to submission of receipts.

Grant payable for Use of Rooms or Halls for Ward Surgeries	£15 maximum per occasion
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Telephone Calls Allowance	£15 per quarter
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Broadband – actual costs to be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15 per month with a contribution from each Member of £3 per month where private use is made for the facility.

*Note: Should a Deputy Cabinet Member be appointed in respect of a “Green” portfolio, any allowance attached to the position is subject to the Panel first hearing evidence regarding the associated responsibilities and recommending that such an allowance is appropriate.

Action Taken on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petition which was presented to Council: -

1. Petition requesting that the Council urgently carry out road resurfacing of unacceptable sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens

A petition signed by 31 residents of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens requesting that the council urgently carry out road resurfacing of unacceptable sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens, was presented at Council on 14th June 2023 by Councillor Tye and referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

Following receipt of the petition, Engineers inspected the road surface concluding that both streets would benefit from localised resurfacing and recommended that sections of Harperley Drive and Dipton Gardens were included in the Highway Maintenance Programme for 2024-25.

Councillor Tye has been advised of the response.

Reports

COUNCIL

20 MARCH 2024

Update on Special Urgency Decisions

Report of the Leader

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken as a matter of special urgency. The relevant provisions are now contained in Regulations 11 and 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

These are the special urgency provisions under which key decisions may be taken by the executive, although not contained in the 28 day Notice of Key decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or private), where compliance with Regulation 10 (the general exception) was also impracticable.

There have been no such instances since the last report.

Recommendation

That the Council notes the content of this report.

COUNCIL

20 MARCH 2024

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of outstanding changes and appointments required to the allocation of Committee seats between political groups as a result of the changes to political balance previously reported to Council, to propose arrangements for appointments to be made to Washington Town Board and to propose an appointment to the Board of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd.

2. Changes to Appointments on Committees

2.1 So far as reasonably practicable, the proportion of the total number of committee seats allocated to each group should reflect each group's proportion of the membership of the authority. The outstanding changes / appointments to Committees which are required are set out in the table below:

Committee	Vacancy / Member to be Replaced	Member(s) to be Appointed
Human Resources Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Tye
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Butler
Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy	Cllr G Smith
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy Vacancy	Cllr Guy Cllr Mordey
Planning and Highways Committee	Vacancy	Cllr Curtis
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Vacancy	Ungrouped Nomination to be notified.
Appeals Committee	Vacancy	Cllr S Foster

3. Washington Town Board

- 3.1 In Autumn 2023, the government launched its long-term plan for Britain's towns, as a part of the levelling up programme. Washington was pre-selected as one of the 55 towns nationally to be included as part of the programme, which is intended to support local regeneration over the next decade.
- 3.2 The guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in December 2023 specifies that an independent chair must be appointed to the proposed Town Board, specifically a local community leader or businessperson who is a respected figure in the community and well placed to lead the Town Board. As part of its role in establishing the Town Board, the Council is expected to offer the independent chair position to a suitable candidate, in consultation with the local MP.
- 3.3 Elected representatives cannot chair the Town Board, but the local MP is required to sit on the Town Board, together with the Police and Crime Commissioner (or their representative). The Council is entitled to appoint two Councillors to the Town Board, and the wider membership is required to be made up from appropriate community and partner organisations, with a strong emphasis on community engagement.
- 3.4 The Town Board will not have legal personality, and accordingly it is expected that the Council will be the accountable body for the purpose of receiving grant funding and administering expenditure on behalf of the Town Board. The Town Board will however be community led, independent of the Council, and responsible for developing and approving its own long-term plan for priority investments in Washington.
- 3.5 The timescales presented by DLUHC for establishing the Town Board are challenging, and the detailed governance arrangements for formally convening and administering the Town Board are still to be developed. In order to ensure progress in line with DLUHC's timescales, it is likely that it will be necessary to establish an initial shadow Town Board, and any Councillor representatives and other representatives (including the chair) will first be invited to join this shadow board. It is intended that Cabinet will subsequently be invited to formally ratify the convening of the Town Board later in 2024, and also approve the detailed governance arrangements and the prospective role of the Council as accountable body.
- 3.6 Council is therefore recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to nominate two Councillor appointments to the proposed Washington Town Board, and to invite a local community leader to act as chair to the Town Board.

4. Together for Children Sunderland Ltd (TfC)

- 4.1 Further to the previous decision of Cabinet to extend the current service delivery contract with TfC up to 31st March 2027, and following a review of

the corporate governance arrangements for the company, a refresh and streamlining of the TfC board structure is planned.

- 4.2 The term of office of a number of the existing TfC non-executive directors is due to expire at the end of March 2024. The proposals have been shaped by the future requirements of the company during the next stage of its journey up to March 2027 and the interests of proportionality.
- 4.3 With effect from 1st April 2024, it is proposed that the TfC board of directors be re-constituted as follows:
- Ms T. Banks (Independent Chair)
 - Chief Executive of TfC
 - Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council
 - Independent Non-Executive Director

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Council is accordingly invited to consider approving the following: -
- (i) the appointment of Councillor Tye to the Human Resources Committee;
 - (ii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee;
 - (iii) the appointment of Councillor Butler to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;
 - (iv) the appointment of Councillor G Smith to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
 - (v) the appointment of Councillors Guy and Mordey to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
 - (vi) the appointment of Councillor Curtis to the Planning and Highways Committee;
 - (vii) the appointment of an Ungrouped Member to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;
 - (viii) the appointment of Councillor Foster to the Appeals Committee;
 - (ix) that the Chief Executive be delegated to nominate two Councillor appointments to the Washington Town Board and to invite a local community leader to act as chair of the Town Board; and
 - (x) the appointment of the Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council to the Board of Directors of Together for Children Sunderland Ltd.

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions: -

1. Notice of Motion – One million women and girls - A framework for women’s equality

This council notes that:

- When the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) comes into being in 2024, it will be responsible for the aspirations and life chances of over one million women and girls living in County Durham, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and Newcastle.
- While it can be tempting for policy makers to think that women and men use public services in the same way this is often not the case. Therefore, considering the specific needs of women and girls from the beginning will result in better policy making, that works for everyone.

This council therefore agrees to formally request the new Mayor and cabinet of the new combined authority to put a plan in place as soon as possible outlining:

- The **practical** steps it will take to improve the lives of women and girls in our region.
- How it will work with partners to ensure women and girls can **access** safe transport, suitable housing, quality jobs, training, and adult education.
- How it intends to **Listen**, carefully, to women and girls from all communities.
- How its **systems and structures** will be developed to ensure equality for women and girls through considering the specific impact on women and girls of every policy/strategy developed, taking action to maximise the positive and mitigate negative impacts.

Proposer by Councillor Kelly Chequer

Seconded by Councillor Beth Jones

Additional Signatories

Cllr Graeme Miller	Cllr Catherine Hunter	Cllr Kevin Johnston
Cllr Henry Trueman	Cllr Tracy Dodds	Cllr Martyn Herron
Cllr Jimmy Warne	Cllr Iain Scott	Cllr Katherine Mason-Gage
Cllr Claire Rowntree	Cllr Melanie Thornton	Cllr Peter Walker
Cllr Alison Smith	Cllr John Usher	Cllr Joanne Laverick
Cllr Alex Samuels	Cllr Juliana Heron	Cllr Paul Stewart
Cllr Michael Butler	Cllr John Price	Cllr Fiona Miller
Cllr Stephen Foster	Cllr Sean Laws	
Cllr Linda Williams	Cllr Alison Chisnall	

2. Notice of Motion – Sunderland's new footbridge

This Council believes the people of Sunderland should have a say in naming the new footbridge being constructed over the River Wear. Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to liaise with Group Leaders to agree a mechanism that:

- Allows the public to submit suggestions for names for the new bridge;
- Appoints an independent panel to produce a shortlist of suggested names;
- Puts the shortlist to an advisory vote of residents of the City of Sunderland.

Proposed by Councillor Niall Hodson

Seconded by Councillor Martin Haswell

Additional Signatories

Cllr Andrew Wood	Cllr Margaret Crosby	Cllr Malcolm Bond
Cllr Julia Potts	Cllr Ciaran Morrissey	Cllr Peter Walton
Cllr Paul Edgeworth	Cllr Heather Fagan	
Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Cllr Paul Gibson	

3. Notice of Motion – Hot Food Takeaways

Supporting local restaurants, cafes, pubs and takeaways is a priority for this Council, as the city navigates its way through the difficult economic conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts around the world.

Sunderland City Council has a responsibility to act in a way that allows these businesses to thrive and provide jobs, services and and improve the quality of life within our city.

Council notes:

- The recent public interest in the City's approach to granting planning permission for hot food takeaways, following the decision not to award such permission to Cole Kitchen.
- That the ruling was made on account of the fact that 21.3% of eleven year olds within the St. Peter's Ward are obese, which is 0.3% over the limit set within Policy VC4 of the Core Strategy and Development Plan.
- That the Government-appointed Planning Inspector ruled that there was 'no leeway' within this policy at present.

Council resolves to:

- Express its regret that a petition signed by over 5,000 residents calling for Cole Kitchen to be granted planning permission has been ignored.
- Call upon the Leader and the Chief Executive to undertake a review of policy VC4 of the Core Strategy Development Plan, considering how Sunderland City Council can create flexibility within the rules to enable businesses which either serve

healthier hot food or serve products not targeted towards children to operate as takeaways.

- Call upon the Leader to deliver a report on the findings of this review to a full Council meeting no later than December 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sam Johnston

Seconded by Councillor Lynn Vera

Additional Signatories

Cllr Joshua McKeith	Cllr Greg Peacock	Cllr Simon Ayre
Cllr Antony Mullen	Cllr Chris Burnicle	Cllr Michael Hartnack
Cllr Michael Dixon	Cllr Adele Graham-King	Cllr Dominic McDonough
Cllr Lyall Reed	Cllr Richard Dunn	

