

Sunderland City Council

At a MEETING of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor M. Smith) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Foster	Old	Trueman
	Arnott	Francis	Oliver	Wake
	Ball	E. Gibson	I.J. Richardson	Wakefield
	Bell	P. Gibson	Rolph	Walker
	Blackburn	Gofton	J. B. Scott	J. Walton
	Chamberlin	Heron	J. Scott	Wares
	Charlton	Howe	Shattock	P. Watson
	Copeland	Kelly	D. Smith	S. Watson
	I. Cuthbert	Leadbitter	P. Smith	Whalen
	M. Dixon	Paul Maddison	Snowdon	A. Wilson
	P. Dixon	Peter Maddison	Speding	D. Wilson
	Ellis	L. Martin	Stephenson	Wood
	Errington	T Martin	Stewart	A. Wright
	Fletcher	Mordey	Symonds	N. Wright
	D. Forbes	Morrissey	Tate	T.H. Wright
	M. Forbes	O'Connor	Timmins	

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items on the agenda for the reasons indicated:-

Item 8 (3)	Councillor A Wilson	Tesco Share Holder and employee
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Item 9 (ii)	Councillors Allan, Ball, Bell, Blackburn, Charlton, D Forbes, Errington, Fletcher, Heron, Kelly, Mordey, Old, Rolph, J B Scott, Shattock, P Smith, Speding, Stewart, Symonds, Timmins, Trueman Walker, Wares, P Watson, S Watson, A Wilson and T H Wright	Corporate Account Holders as Members of Labour Group
	Councillors Paul Maddison and Wood	Shareholders and Account Holders
	Councillor M Forbes	Account Holder
	Councillors E Gibson, P Gibson and Snowdon	Corporate and Personal Account Holders and Shareholders
	Councillor Stephenson	Corporate and Personal Account Holder
	Councillor Gofton	Corporate Account and Mortgage Holder
	Councillor Tate	Corporate Account Holder and Shareholder

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Death of Frank Hughes

It was with sadness that the Mayor reminded Council of the recent death of the former councillor, Frank Hughes.

Members and Officers joined the Mayor in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) The 4th Regiment Royal Artillery

The Mayor welcomed to the Council, Lieutenant Colonel Greg Cole of the 4th Regiment Royal Artillery. She reminded the Council that the Regiment had recently returned home after serving nearly a quarter of a century in Osnabruck, Germany and that the people of Sunderland had turned out in

record crowds to see the Regiment march through the City as a celebration of its return home.

She advised that in order to commemorate its 25 years in Osnabruck, the Regiment had commissioned a silver centre piece model of the Osnabruck town hall to mark this chapter of its history. In order to recognise the special relationship between the Regiment and the people of Sunderland and to acknowledge the contributions made by the many Sunderland recruits who had served abroad with the Regiment, the Cabinet had approved a contribution towards the commission.

On behalf of the City and the people of Sunderland the Mayor then presented Lieutenant Colonel Cole with a cheque for £20,000.

Lieutenant Colonel Cole expressed his thanks to the people of Sunderland for their generosity and for the support which they had given the Regiment. In appreciation of this support, Lieutenant Colonel Cole presented the Council with two brass cartridge cases from shells which had been fired during the Regiment's time in Afghanistan. The Mayor accepted the shell cases on behalf of the Council.

(iii) Public Relations Practitioner of the Year

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor P Watson informed the meeting of the success of Rose Peacock of the Council's Corporate Communications Team, in being named PR Practitioner of the Year at the recent CIPR Pride Awards.

The Leader paid tribute to Rose and her reputation for getting things done, keeping a cool head in a crisis and delivering against impossible deadlines which had earned her the respect and admiration of journalists, peers and colleagues. Rose had managed PR programmes which had included the development and royal openings of the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, the arrival of the metro in Sunderland, the redevelopment of the Sunderland Empire and she had managed to break all records for media coverage around the opening of the Sunderland Aquatic Centre.

(iv) Journal Landmark Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan informed the meeting of the Council's success at the annual Journal Landmark Awards.

He advised that the awards were now in their fifth year of giving recognition to the region's best buildings and the Sunderland Aquatic Centre had taken the overall Landmark of the Year title after already winning the retail/leisure and public sector categories. The Place in Sunnyside had also won the category of office development with the Mowbray Park apartments coming first in the residential development category.

He then formally presented the Mayor with the awards which she accepted on behalf of the Council.

(v) Local Compact of the Year Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Speding, informed the meeting that the Sunderland Compact had been highly commended nationally by the Commissioner for the Compact in the Local Compact of the Year awards.

He advised that the Sunderland Compact provides a framework to improve partnership working between voluntary and community sector organisations in Sunderland and the organisations of the Sunderland Partnership.

He then formally presented the Mayor with the commendation which she accepted on behalf of the Council.

(vi) Northumbria in Bloom Awards

Councillor Speding then informed the meeting of the recent success of Sunderland in the Northumbria in Bloom awards 2008.

The City had received a total of 17 awards and he thanked the Council staff for their efforts in achieving the high standards which gained the awards and also expressed his gratitude to other agencies for their involvement including the Durham Wildlife Trust, Health Service Trust and local business and commerce.

He then formally presented the Mayor with the awards which she accepted on behalf of the Council.

(vii) LABC National Built in Quality Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Councillor Blackburn, informed the meeting of the Council's recent success in the 2008 LABC National Built In Quality Awards.

The Council's Building Control Service had received the award for 'Best Partnership with a Client or Housebuilder' for its partnership working with Miller Homes North East. The partnership had seen the involvement of Building Control in more than 27 housing schemes across the North East, delivering a total of 1,748 new homes.

The award reflected the Council's approach to partnerships and was also in recognition of the importance that the Directorate placed upon forging strong partnerships.

He then formally presented the Mayor with the award which she accepted on behalf of the Council.

(viii) Durham County Cricket Club

On behalf of the citizens of Sunderland and the Council, the Mayor congratulated all staff and players involved in Durham County Cricket Club who had contributed towards Durham winning their maiden County Championship in September 2008.

To win the County Championship some 17 seasons after being awarded first class status was an excellent achievement and Durham County Cricket Club had made great progress since it became a first class county. She remarked that the Club had an excellent ground at the Riverside complex and hoped it would continue to develop local and regional cricketing talent.

The Mayor, on behalf of the City, wished the team well in the defence of their County Championship title in 2009.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions submitted by the Councillors respectively named be received and referred for consideration to the Officer indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor Shattock – from residents of Southwick requesting the removal of the mobile phone mast situated at the top of Newcastle Road leading to Thompson Road – Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (ii) Councillor N Wright – petition against the possible closure of Grange Park Primary School – Director of Children’s Services;
- (iii) Councillor Wake – from the residents of Rickleton requesting the provision of recycling ‘bring’ facilities at a more convenient location – Director of Community and Cultural Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, A Cuthbert, Fairs, A Hall, G Hall, Miller, D Richardson, Scaplehorn, Tye, Vardy and L Walton.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. Publication of the Regional Spatial Strategy

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy circulated) on the publication of the Secretary of State's final version of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) entitled "The North East of England Plan" in July. The report was to form part of the statutory development plan for Sunderland.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended the Council to note the contents of the report and adopt the North East of England Plan as part of the City's development Plan.

2. Review of Area Arrangements : Area Committee Review

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive (Acting) and the City Solicitor (copy circulated) on proposals to revise the number of Area Committees as part of the Council's overall Review of Area Arrangements and a preferred option for the future configuration of Area Committee boundaries.

The Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve the changes to the Constitution as set out in Section 5 of the report and option 10 to take effect from the next Annual Council on 13th May 2009.

They had also referred the matter to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee for advice and consideration. The Review Committee had agreed the recommendation of the Cabinet with reservations.

3. Second Capital Programme Review 2008/2009

That they had given consideration to a report of the City Treasurer on the outcome of the Second Capital Programme Review for 2008/2009 which had sought specific approval to the changes made to the Capital Programme since the First Capital Programme Review 2008/2009.

They had also referred the matter to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee for advice and consideration in the context of the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to scheme costs for 2008/2009. The Review Committee had agreed to endorse the proposed additional schemes and revisions to scheme costs for 2008/2009.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve the inclusion of additional schemes for 2008/2009.

The Leader of the Council moved the report of the Cabinet and was duly seconded by Councillor Allan who reserved the right to speak.

Councillor L Martin, seconded by Councillor Morrissey, then moved an amendment that the item 2 of the report, "Review of Area Arrangements", be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated with 17 members voting in favour thereof, viz: -

Councillors	Arnott	M Forbes	Morrissey	Wakefield
	Chamberlin	Francis	Oliver	J Walton
	I Cuthbert	Leadbitter	I Richardson	Wood
	M Dixon	L Martin	Wake	A Wright
	P Dixon			

And 40 Members voting against, viz: -

Councillors	Allan	P Gibson	J Scott	Trueman
	Ball	Gofton	Shattock	Walker
	Bell	Heron	D Smith	Wares
	Blackburn	Kelly	P Smith	P Watson
	Charlton	T Martin	Snowdon	S Watson
	Copeland	Mordey	Speding	Whalen
	Fletcher	O'Connor	Stephenson	A Wilson
	D Forbes	Old	Symonds	D Wilson
	Foster	Rolph	Tate	N Wright
	E Gibson	J B Scott	Timmins	T H Wright

The substantive motion having then been put to the meeting, It was:-

RESOLVED that the report of Cabinet, together with the views of the Review Committees 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.

Councillor L Martin, duly seconded, moved to extend the half hour time limit to ask questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 20 Members voting in favour thereof, viz: -

Councillors	Arnott	Ellis	L Martin	Wake
	Chamberlin	M Forbes	Morrissey	Wakefield
	I Cuthbert	Francis	Oliver	J Walton
	M Dixon	Howe	I Richardson	Wood
	P Dixon	Leadbitter	D Smith	A Wright

And 40 Members voting against, viz: -

Councillors	Allan	E Gibson	J B Scott	Trueman
	Ball	P Gibson	J Scott	Walker
	Bell	Gofton	Shattock	Wares
	Blackburn	Heron	P Smith	P Watson
	Charlton	Kelly	Snowdon	S Watson
	Copeland	T Martin	Speding	Whalen
	Errington	Mordey	Stephenson	A Wilson
	Fletcher	O'Connor	Stewart	D Wilson
	D Forbes	Old	Symonds	N Wright
	Foster	Rolph	Timmins	T H Wright

(i) Notice of Motion – Fuel Poverty

Councillor L Martin, seconded by Councillor Leadbitter moved a motion in relation to fuel poverty in the City.

Upon being put to the meeting the motion was carried unanimously.

Accordingly it was: -

RESOLVED that with one in three Sunderland households thought to be living in fuel poverty, this Council instructs the Acting Chief Executive to: -

1. Undertake an urgent review of the Council's reserves and contingencies to identify any resources that could be released or re-directed to help the city's most vulnerable residents stay warm this winter.
2. Bring forward proposals for both increasing the uptake of home insulation and speeding up its installation.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Northern Rock

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

“In light of the world-wide banking crisis this Council believes the time is right to review Northern Rock's business plan with a view to it remaining as a major North East based financial institution and continuing to serve the interests of its loyal customer base.”

Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor Gofton moved the following amendment: -

After “In light of the world - wide banking crisis this Council believes the time is right to”, add “ask the Government to” followed by “review Northern Rock's business plan...”

On the amendment being put to the meeting, it was unanimously carried.

The new substantive motion was then put to the meeting and it was: -

RESOLVED that in light of the world - wide banking crisis this Council believes the time is right to ask the Government to review Northern Rock's business plan with a view to it remaining as a major North East based financial institution and continuing to serve the interests of its loyal customer base.

(iii) Notice of Motion – Minimum Wage

Councillor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Mordey moved a motion in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the introduction of the minimum wage.

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

RESOLVED that following the tenth anniversary of the introduction of the legislation granting the legal right to a minimum wage, this Council wishes to place on record its appreciation to the Labour Government for the social and economic benefits which have been subsequently accrued to the City of Sunderland.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Tyne and Wear Development Company Limited and Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to note resignations from the Tyne and Wear Development Company and the Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company and to consider the Council's nominations to the resultant vacancies.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded, nominated Councillor Allan to the vacancy on the Tyne and Wear Development Company, with Councillor Bell as an alternate Director, Councillor Tate as a Director of the Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company with Councillor Mordey as an alternate Director.

Councillor L Martin, seconded by Councillor Morrissey, moved that Councillor I Cuthbert be considered for membership of the Tyne and Wear Development Company.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal for Councillor I Cuthbert to be nominated to the Tyne and Wear Development Company was defeated with 20 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillors	Arnott	P. Dixon	Peter Maddison	J. Walton
	Chamberlin	M. Forbes	L. Martin	Wakefield
	I. Cuthbert	Francis	Morrissey	Wake
	Ellis	Howe	Oliver	Wood
	M. Dixon	Leadbitter	I. Richardson	A Wright

1 Member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor D Smith

and 39 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	E Gibson	J Scott	Timmins
	Ball	P Gibson	Shattock	Trueman
	Bell	Gofton	M Smith	Walker
	Blackburn	Heron	P Smith	Wares
	Charlton	Kelly	Snowdon	P Watson
	Copeland	T Martin	Speding	S Watson
	Errington	Mordey	Stephenson	A Wilson
	Fletcher	Old	Stewart	N Wright
	D Forbes	Rolph	Symonds	T H Wright
	Foster	J B Scott	Tate	

Councillor Morrissey, seconded by Councillor Arnott, then moved that Councillor L Martin be considered for membership of the Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company.

Upon being put to the vote by a show of hands, the proposal for Councillor L Martin to be nominated to the Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company was defeated with 21 members voting in favour and 39 against.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and upon being put to the vote by a show of hands was carried with 37 members voting in favour and 17 voting against and it was:-

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the resignation of Councillor T Wright from the Boards of Directors of the Tyne and Wear Development Company Limited and the Newcastle International Authority Holding Company be noted;
- (ii) Councillor Allan be appointed as a Director of the Tyne and Wear Development Company and Councillor Bell as an alternate Director; and
- (iii) Councillor Tate be appointed as a Director of the Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company and Councillor Mordey as an alternate Director.

(Signed) M. SMITH
Mayor