

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. Martin)

Councillors	Allan	E. Gibson	I.J. Richardson	Wake
	Bell	P. Gibson	Rolph	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Walker
	Charlton	A. Hall	J.B. Scott	J. Walton
	Copeland	G. Hall	J. Scott	L. Walton
	A. Cuthbert	Heron	Shattock	Wares
	I. Cuthbert	Howe	P. Smith	P. Watson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	Snowdon	S. Watson
	Ellis	L. Martin	Speding	Whalen
	Errington	Miller	Stephenson	A. Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	D. Wilson
	D. Forbes	Morrissey	Timmins	Wood
	M. Forbes	O'Connor	Trueman	A. Wright
	Foster	Old	Tye	N. Wright
	Francis	Oliver	Vardy	T. Wright

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13th May, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

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

Item 7	Councillor P. Smith	Member of Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership
	Councillor Gofton	Member of Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership
Item 8(vi)	Councillor Tate	Chairman of Hetton Homecare Management Committee
Item 11	Councillor Speding	Member of Football Association

Item 8(vii)	Councillor Tye	Volunteer with Youth Almighty Project
Item 12(ii)	Councillor Errington	Father employed by Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Welcome

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to colleagues from Hetton Town Council who had joined the meeting to sign the first ever Hetton Town Council Charter and also to the Chief Constable, Mike Craik.

(ii) Mr. Ralph Baxter Deceased

It was with sadness that the Mayor advised Council of the recent death of former Mayor and colleague, Ralph Baxter. Members and Officers joined the Mayor in observing a minute's silence for Ralph Baxter.

(iii) Official Signing of the Hetton Town Council Charter

The Mayor and Councillor Marie Adamson, Mayor of Hetton Town Council, formally signed the Hetton Town Council Charter which had been approved by Council on 25th March, 2009.

The Charter set out how the two Councils aimed to work together for the benefit of local people in the communities of Easington Lane, Moorsley, East Rainton, Eppleton and Hetton-le-Hole.

Local Council Charters recognised the importance of Town and Parish Councils in local democracy and service delivery, and detailed basic principles of the relationship between the Councils involved.

The Charter formalised many existing informal arrangements between the two Councils and provided a basic framework for the future development of partnership working towards community involvement.

(iv) Friendship Agreement with Harbin Municipal Government

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson informed the meeting of a Friendship Agreement which had been made between the Council and the Harbin Municipal Government together with a Memorandum of Understanding with Nanjing Ministry of Science and Technology.

He advised that the Friendship Agreement with Harbin sought to generate economic, educational and cultural benefits for the people of both cities and work was already underway to take the Agreement forward. The Mayor formally accepted the Agreement and Memorandum on behalf of the Council.

**(v) Celebration of Learning and Skills – The Awards 2009
Finalist Award in the Category of Outstanding Employer of the Year**

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan informed the meeting of the Council's success in the recent Learning and Skills Councils CoLa awards under the category of Outstanding Employer. The Mayor formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(vi) Queen's Award for Export – Liebherr, Nissan and Arriva

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Prosperous City, Councillor Bryan Charlton, informed the meeting of three Sunderland Companies receiving the Queen's Award for Export. He advised that it was very special for even one company in any city to receive this very prestigious award, but the fact that Sunderland had three companies – Liebherr, Nissan and Arriva – who had all been honoured in this way this year was extremely special.

The Mayor formally received two gifts from Liebherr, a special book on the history of the company, and a model of the cranes produced in Sunderland which had been exported to all parts of the world, including China, Malaysia, the United States, and many countries within Europe, on behalf of the Council.

Address by the Chief Constable of Northumbria Police, Mr. Mike Craik on Policing Issues in Sunderland

Mr. Craik outlined the achievements in Sunderland of Northumbria Police during the four year period 2005 to 2009 which included reduction in crime, increased detection rates, a decrease in youth disorder and non youth disorder and overall improved public satisfaction. Crimes had reduced by 18.08% and the increased detection rate was 7.50%.

Youth disorder had decreased by 19.24% and non youth disorder by 21.08%.

The Police had achieved this by clear aims and priorities, total policing, a neighbourhood policing model, partnership working and police authority support.

Turning to the challenges that were faced by Northumbria Police, he advised that the new and emerging issues were public confidence, counter terrorism, efficiency savings and an expected increase in crime due to the recession.

He said that the Force needed to build on the achievements through 20/20 Vision, to build trust and confidence in the community, to reduce crime and disorder, to keep the policing pledge and to promote community empowerment and advocacy.

He then referred to community empowerment, a network of neighbourhood police to engage and the opportunity for Members to be part of the community contact network to report local issues. He added that the Force would build on existing partnership working with the Tyne and Wear Public Service Board, Newcastle and Gateshead Initiative, ONE NorthEast, the alcohol industry and diversion schemes.

Mr. Craik stressed the need to continue investing in Northumbria Police staff and the region, to continue the strong relationship with the Police Authority who had significantly contributed to increased staffing levels, the building programme and innovation.

He concluded that Northumbria Police would continue to adopt a low tolerance approach to criminality and would intervene at the earliest possible opportunity to stop crime before it happened. He stressed the need to strengthen partnership working to further reduce crime and disorder and to raise confidence levels, making communities even safer than they were now.

The presentation was then followed by a short question and answer session. The Mayor then thanked the Chief Constable for his informative presentation.

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 A. Cuthbert – petition from residents of West Bridge Street and East Bridge Street, Penshaw, Houghton-le-Spring requesting a sign that dogs should be kept on a lead – Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services;
- (ii) Councillor Francis – petition requesting security measures for residents in Fulwell – Director of Development and Regeneration;
- (iii) Councillor A. Wright – petition from Herrington residents for pedestrian crossing on Silksworth Road – Director of Development and Regeneration;
and
- (iv) Councillor Oliver – petition from St. Chad's Councillors and residents at the Lakeside Village and Farringdon to put an island in the larger lake at the Silksworth Sports Complex as a sanctuary for wildlife – Director of Community and Cultural Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Arnott, Ball, Chamberlin, P. Dixon, Fairs, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, D. Smith, M. Smith, P. Stewart and Symonds.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. New Executive Arrangements

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”) that required Authorities to make changes to executive arrangements. The report recommended the process for implementing the changes, and the necessary consultation, to enable the Council to determine future arrangements in accordance with the Act.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to consider the basis upon which the consultation on new executive arrangements should be carried out and to authorise the Chief Executive to carry out such consultations and take all other necessary steps in relation thereto in accordance with the timetable proposed in the report.

It was proposed that the consultation process would include providing relevant information to the public about the specified forms of executive arrangements, without expressing a preference by the Council at this stage.

2. Updating of the Constitution

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) proposing amendments to the Constitution to reflect the proposed new terms of reference for Area Committees, the transition to a new organisational structure and some minor amendments required to reflect legislative or other changes.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the amendments to the Council’s Constitution detailed in the report, and the arrangements proposed in respect of the delegation of powers both generally and to deal with that transition to the new organisational structure.

3. Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-10 and 2010-25

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Children’s Services (copy circulated) on the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) 2009-10.

Partners and Members across the Children’s Trust and Council had been consulted on the CYPP 2009/10 and on proposals for the 15 year Commissioning Strategy. The report and Plan had also been forwarded to the former Children’s Services Review Committee for advice and consideration during the consultation process and the Committee had endorsed the Plan.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the CYPP 2009-10 and to approve the proposals for a 15 year Children and Young People's Plan Commissioning Strategy 2010-25.

4. Food Law Plan 2009/2010

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services (copy circulated) on the Service's Food Law Service Plan for 2009/2010 and to seek approval of the Plan.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan.

They had also referred the report to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration.

The Committee had welcomed the report and recommended to the Council that the Food Law Service Plan for 2009/10 be approved.

RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet, together with the views of the Scrutiny Committees, be approved and adopted.

Review Committees and Standards Committee – Annual Reports 2008/2009

The Chief Solicitor submitted Annual Reports (copies circulated) for the year 2008/2009 in respect of the following Committees:-

- (i) Culture and Leisure Review Committee;
- (ii) Children's Services Review Committee;
- (iii) Environmental and Planning Review Committee;
- (iv) Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee;
- (v) Regeneration and Community Review Committee;
- (vi) Health and Well-Being Review Committee; and
- (vii) Standards Committee.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the Annual Reports be received and noted.

Written Questions (if any) 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, seconded by Councillor Francis moved a motion to extend the time for Written Questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal was defeated with 20 Members voting for, viz:-

Councillors	A. Cuthbert	Francis	Morrissey	Wakefield
	I. Cuthbert	G. Hall	Oliver	J. Walton
	M. Dixon	Howe	I.J. Richardson	L. Walton
	Ellis	L. Martin	Vardy	Wood
	M. Forbes	T. Martin	Wake	A. Wright

And 37 Members voting against viz:-

Councillors	Allan	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Tye
	Bell	A. Hall	J. Scott	Walker
	Blackburn	Heron	Shattock	Wares
	Charlton	Kelly	P. Smith	P. Watson
	Copeland	Miller	Snowdon	S. Watson
	Errington	Mordey	Speding	A. Wilson
	Fletcher	O'Connor	Tate	D. Wilson
	Foster	Old	Timmins	N. Wright
	E. Gibson	Rolph	Trueman	T. Wright
	P. Gibson			

Adjournment of Meeting

At this juncture, the meeting was adjourned for a short break. The meeting was reconvened at 9.30 p.m.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the undermentioned report on action taken in relation to a petition which had been presented to the Council:-

Petition from 653 people to support the re-opening of Rickleton Chapel as a Community Centre for the local areas. Presented by Councillor G. Miller on 24 September 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services following consultation with the former Member with Portfolio for Culture and Leisure had advised that the petition be declined as Rickleton Chapel was not owned by Sunderland City Council and there was interest being expressed by others in bringing the facility back into use.

An analysis of local community provision and capacity would suggest alternatives could be explored.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – FIFA World Cup Bid

Councillor P. Watson, seconded by Councillor P. Smith, moved a motion to support the bid by the Football Association to be the host country for the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup.

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

RESOLVED that this Council resolves to support the bid by the Football Association to be the host country for the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup by promoting and enabling Sunderland's bid to be a venue for hosting games in either competition.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Announcement by Shadow Health Minister

Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor P. Watson moved a motion in relation to an announcement by Andrew Lansley, MP, the Shadow Health Minister, on the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme on 10th June, 2009.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried, with 38 Members voting for, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. Martin)

Councillors	Allan	P. Gibson	Rolph	Tye
	Bell	Gofton	Scaplehorn	Walker
	Blackburn	A. Hall	J. Scott	Wares
	Charlton	Heron	P. Smith	P. Watson
	Copeland	Kelly	Snowdon	S. Watson
	Errington	Miller	Speding	A. Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	D. Wilson
	Foster	O'Connor	Timmins	N. Wright
	E. Gibson	Old	Trueman	T. Wright

And 16 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	I. Cuthbert	Francis	Oliver	J. Walton
	M. Dixon	G. Hall	Vardy	L. Walton
	Ellis	L. Martin	Wake	Wood
	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Wakefield	A. Wright

RESOLVED that Sunderland City Council condemns the announcement by Andrew Lansley, MP, the Shadow Health Minister, on the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme on 10th June, 2009. Mr. Lansley stated that to protect health spending, schools and international development, the conservatives are committed to a reduction of 10% in departmental expenditure limits for three years starting in 2011. This highlights the bare faced disregard for the impact these proposed reductions would have on

communities in areas such as Sunderland, arising from the consequential swingeing cuts to all other public services such as social welfare services, economic development, regeneration, housing, transport, police, defence, and fire and rescue services. This proposal exposes to the people of Sunderland the intellectual deficit in the Tory leadership and their real agenda.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Prosperity and Economic Development, Community and Safer City and Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committees, Admissions to Schools Appeal Panel and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider its representation on the Prosperity and Economic Development, Community and Safer City and Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committees, Admissions to Schools Appeal Panel and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Watson, seconded by Councillor Allan, moved that the recommendations contained in the report be approved and it was:-

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the request of the Majority Group in relation to the proposed membership changes of the Prosperity and Economic Development and Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committees be approved and Councillor Speding be replaced by Councillor Rolph on the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Rolph be replaced by Councillor Speding on the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) the resignation of Mrs. M. Carr as one of the three Parent Governor Representatives on the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee be noted and Mrs. A. Goulden be appointed as the replacement Parent Governor Representative;
- (iii) the nomination of Ms. Michelle Oxman to become a Non Lay Member of the Admissions to Schools Appeal Panel be approved subject to the receipt of satisfactory references; and

- (iv) Councillor N. Wright be appointed to join the new Council of Governors of the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust for a 3 year period to 1 July 2012.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Mayor.