

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

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

Councillors	Allan	M. Forbes	O'Connor	Tye
	Anderson	Francis	Oliver	Vardy
	Ball	E. Gibson	I. Richardson	Wakefield
	Barkess	P. Gibson	Rolph	Walker
	Bell	Gofton	J. Scott	J. Walton
	Blackburn	A. Hall	Shattock	L. Walton
	Chamberlin	G. Hall	D. Smith	P. Watson
	Charlton	Heron	M. Smith	S. Watson
	Cuthbert	Howe	P. Smith	A. Wilson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	Snowdon	D. Wilson
	Ellis	Paul Maddison	Speding	Wood
	Errington	L. Martin	Symonds	A. Wright
	Fairs	Miller	Tate	N. Wright
	Fletcher	Mordey	Timmins	T. Wright
	D. Forbes	Morrissey	Trueman	

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3rd March, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record subject to:-

- (i) the inclusion of Councillor Vardy in the list of those present at the meeting;
and
- (ii) the inclusion of a declaration of interest from Councillor M. Forbes, in Item 6, as a governor of St. Anthony's School.

Declarations of Interest

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

Item 7(2) – Report of the Cabinet – Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025

Councillor Gofton

School Governor: Hillview Infant and Pennywell 360 Academy

Reports (i) – Quarterly
Report on Special
Urgency Decisions

Councillor Rolph

Council appointed Governor of
Houghton Kepier Sports College

The following Councillor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business, for the reason indicated, and took no part in the consideration or voting thereon:-

Reports (i) – Quarterly
Report on Special
Urgency Decisions

Councillor Errington

Friend of staff member

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Sunderland Home Improvement Agency National Award

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities, Councillor Harry Trueman, informed the meeting that the Sunderland Home Improvement Agency (HIA) had won the 'Excellence in delivering major adaptations' national award for the quality of its work in helping older, disabled and vulnerable people make repairs and adaptations to their homes.

The Deputy Mayor then formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(ii) Local Innovation Award

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Safer City, Councillor Denny Wilson, informed the meeting that the Safer Sunderland Partnership had received national recognition by winning a local innovation award under the community safety category 'policing our communities'.

The Deputy Mayor then formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(iii) Local Government Chronicle Award (LGC Award) – Innovation Category

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, Councillor Pat Smith, informed the meeting that the Council had been successful in the Local Government Chronicle Awards, where the Council had been presented with an award in recognition of the City's XL Youth Villages.

The Deputy Mayor then formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(iv) Retiring Councillors

The Deputy Mayor announced that six Members of the Council, namely Councillors Michael Arnott, Mary Smith, Jean Stephenson, Robert Symonds, Ross Wares and Denis Whalen would be retiring from office and, on behalf of the Council, expressed gratitude for their past service and wished them well for the future.

(v) Retirement of Director of Financial Resources

The Deputy Mayor invited the Leader to speak on the retirement of Mr Keith Beardmore as the Council's Director of Financial Resources. He expressed gratitude and paid tribute to his service to the Council and the Leader of the Majority party in Opposition also spoke in support. Members and Officers then joined in wishing Mr Beardmore well for the future together with a long and happy retirement. Mr Beardmore responded accordingly.

Reception of Petitions

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

- (i) Councillor Ellis – petition from local residents requesting assistance for the upgrading of the street at the rear of Durham Street – Executive Director of City Services,
- (ii) Councillor Rolph – petition from local residents requesting assistance for the upgrading of the street at the rear of Durham Street – Executive Director of City Services,
- (iii) Councillor Tye – petition from residents requesting the City Council to consider the installation of a canopy roof to cover SK8 City at Silksworth Ski Slope to allow all users safe access to the facility during wet weather – Executive Director of City Services, and
- (iv) Councillor Alan Wright – petition from residents requesting an increase in residents' parking provision around the Lakeside Towers - Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Arnott, Copeland, P. Dixon, Foster, Leadbitter, Peter Maddison, Old, Scaplehorn, J.B. Scott, Stephenson, Stewart, Wares and Whalen.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Audit Commission Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

That they had submitted for consideration by Council a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources (copy circulated) on the Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter which included issues arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements and the results of the Audit Commission's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements to securing value for money in its use of resources.

The Cabinet had recommended the Council to note the contents of the report.

2. Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) on the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2010-25 Strategy and the 3 year Delivery Plan 2010-13.

Partners and Members across the Children's Trust and Council had been consulted on the CYPP 15 year Strategy and the 3 year Delivery Plan. The report and plans had also been forwarded to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration during the consultation process and the Committee had endorsed the Plan.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve the CYPP 15 year Strategy 2010-25 and 3 year Delivery Plan 2010-13.

3. City of Sunderland Local Development Framework Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options

That they had given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy circulated) seeking approval of the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options for public consultation.

They had also referred the report to the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The Committees had endorsed the report.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended the Council to:-

- (i) note the representations received to the Core Strategy Alternative Options Consultation and agree the offer recommendations to each response as set out in Annex 1 of the report;
- (ii) approve the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation; and

- (iii) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Prosperous City, to make any required amendments to the Sunderland Core Strategy Preferred Option (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) as necessary prior to its publication for public consultation.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved the report of the Cabinet and it was:-

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

The Standards Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Council Publicity – Guidance Note

That they had given consideration to a report of the Chief Solicitor together with a Guidance Note on Council Publicity (copies circulated), aimed at assisting Members and Officers to ensure that all publicity materials issued and all promotional activity undertaken by the Council or the use of its resources met the standards set out in the Government's Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, the Code of Conduct for Members and complied with the law.

The Committee had noted and endorsed the contents of the Guidance Note on Council Publicity and had agreed that copies be sent to all Members of the Council, Chief Officers and Heads of Service.

The Committee had recommended that the Council formally adopt the Guidance Note on Council Publicity and that this be included in the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Tate, duly seconded by Councillor M. Forbes, moved the report of the Standards Committee and it was:-

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee 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.

The Deputy Mayor agreed to the submission of an Emergency Question.

The Deputy Mayor proposed an extension to the time for responding to Written Questions which was agreed by the meeting.

Notice of Motion – Off Shore Renewable Energy

Councillor L. Martin, seconded by Councillor Morrissey, moved the following motion in relation to Offshore Renewable Energy:-

“This Council affirms its commitment to making the Port of Sunderland and River Wear an important hub for the offshore renewal energy industry. Furthermore, we abhor the suggestion of the Labour candidate for Sunderland Central that skilled Sunderland workers should travel to the Tyne to work in these new green economy jobs.”

Councillor Gofton, seconded by Councillor Allan, moved an amendment to delete all after the first sentence and to insert:-

”We realise that this can only happen if the North East as a region works together to beat off rival bids from other conurbations, to ensure that we are the major area carrying out this work.

Sunderland City Council also recognises that for many decades, workers have chosen to travel around the North East region on a daily basis to work and believes that they should be supported in this choice.

We also commend the efforts of the Labour candidate for Sunderland Central in her various regional roles to ensure that the North East and Sunderland in particular become major players in this exciting new industry.”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried, with 38 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

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

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

1 Member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor Ellis

and 20 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Barkess	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Wakefield
	Chamberlin	Francis	Oliver	J. Walton
	Cuthbert	G. Hall	I. Richardson	L. Walton
	M. Dixon	Howe	D. Smith	Wood
	Fairs	L. Martin	Vardy	A. Wright

Upon being put to the vote the new substantive motion was carried with 38 Members voting in favour, viz:-

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

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

18 Members abstaining, viz:-

Councillors	Barkess	M. Forbes	Morrissey	L. Walton
	Chamberlin	Francis	Oliver	Wood
	Cuthbert	G. Hall	I. Richardson	A. Wright
	M. Dixon	Howe	Vardy	
	Fairs	L. Martin	J. Walton	

and 3 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Ellis	D. Smith	Wakefield
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Accordingly, it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council affirms its commitment to making the Port of Sunderland and River Wear an important hub for the off-shore renewable energy industry. We realise that this can only happen if the North East as a region works together to beat off rival bids from other conurbations, to ensure that we are the major area carrying out this work.

Sunderland City Council also recognises that for many decades, workers have chosen to travel around the North East Region on a daily basis to work, and believes that they should be supported in this choice.

We also commend the efforts of the Labour candidate for Sunderland Central in her various regional roles to ensure that the North East and Sunderland in particular become major players in this exciting new industry.

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

Allocation of seats on Council Committees and Sub-Committees – Appeals under the Education Acts – Constitution of Panel Members and Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider the appointment of Panel Members to the Appeals Panel for Appeals under the Education Acts and to note the resignation of a Co-opted Member from the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the appointment of the undermentioned Lay Members and Non-Lay Members to the Education Appeals Panel:-

Lay Members

Avril Baxter, Hetton le Hole
Laura Jane Bell, Sunderland

Non-Lay Members

Mary Ashcroft, Sunderland
Claire Jackson, Sunderland
Kathryn Grace Muncaster, Washington
Edmund Arnold, Sunderland

- (ii) the resignation of Ms. Helen Kelly as a Parent Governor representative on the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee be noted.

(Signed) T. MARTIN
Deputy Mayor