

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor N. Wright)

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Morrissey	Tye
	Anderson	Foster	Old	Vardy
	Ball	Francis	Oliver	Wakefield
	Bell	E. Gibson	Padgett	Walker
	Blackburn	P. Gibson	D. Richardson	J. Walton
	Bonallie	Gofton	Rolph	L. Walton
	Chamberlin	A. Hall	Scaplehorn	P. Watson
	Charlton	G. Hall	Shattock	S. Watson
	Copeland	Heron	P. Smith	Williams
	Cuthbert	Howe	Snowdon	A. Wilson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	Speding	D. Wilson
	P. Dixon	McClennan	Stewart	Wood
	Emerson	Maddison	Tate	A. Wright
	Errington	L. Martin	Timmins	T. Wright
	Essl	Miller	D. Trueman	
	Fairs	Mordey	H. Trueman	

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19th May, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Mayor's Announcements

- (i) It was with sadness that the Mayor asked the Council to remember former Councillor Bryan Williams who had served on the Council between 1991 and 2007.

- (ii) The Mayor then advised Council of the recent death of Councillor Ethel Metcalf who had served on Hetton Town Council representing the people of Hetton le Hole Ward since 1979.

Members and Officers then joined the Mayor in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Bryan Williams and Councillor Ethel Metcalf.

- (iii) At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan, informed the meeting that the Council Tax section had won the 'BACS Direct Debit Award' in recognition of the number of Direct Debit transactions taken over the last twelve months.

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

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions, submitted by the Councillors respectively named, be received and referred for consideration, in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, to the Officers indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor E. Gibson – petition from local residents requesting the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Mill Hill Road – Executive Director of City Services,
- (ii) Councillor Copeland – petition from local residents requesting traffic calming in the area around Leafields and Faber Road and expressing concern over the lack of consultation on the play park and the anti social behaviour caused by this play park – Executive Director of City Services, and
- (iii) Councillor P. Dixon – petition from local residents requesting the extension of parking restrictions in the Leazes – Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ellis, D Forbes, M. Forbes, Kay, MacKnight, O'Connor, I. Richardson, J.B. Scott, J. Scott, D. Smith and Wake.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Community Leadership Programme: Review of Cabinet Portfolio Remits

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) on the Leader of the Council's allocation of Portfolio responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended Council to note the decision of the Leader on the allocation of Portfolio responsibilities as set out in this report.

2. Honorary Freedom of the City – The Rifles Regiment

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) recommending that the Council formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon the Rifles Regiment. The proposal would formally seal the relationship between the Regiment and the City of Sunderland and would recognise the number of members of the Regiment who had been recruited from Wearside and mark the close past and present relationships between the Regiment and the people of Sunderland which had contributes to the community spirit of the City.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended that Council:-

- (i) agree to the conferring, upon the Rifles Regiment, in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Honorary Freedom of the City and the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of Sunderland with full ceremonial regalia, and
- (ii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on Friday, 10th September, 2010 and for the Regiment to exercise its right to march through the City on that day.

3. The Council's Petition Scheme

That they had given consideration to a report of the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) on the requirements imposed on the Council by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the duty to make and publicise a Petition Scheme.

They had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee had welcomed the report and had agreed that Council be recommended to approve the scheme subject to consideration of the following issues

- i) it be clarified in the scheme that petitions should only be considered from people who live, work or study in Sunderland (ie they need only meet one of the three criteria) and;
- ii) the current practice of reporting to Council on the action taken on petitions be continued in respect of those petitions submitted at full Council

Accordingly, the Cabinet, having given consideration to the draft Petition Scheme, had recommended the Council to approve the Scheme with the following provisions:-

- (a) the thresholds for signatures be as follows:-
 - “Ordinary” petitions 10 signatures.
 - “Petitions requiring debate” 7,000 signatures.
 - “Petitions to hold Council employees to account” 3,500 signatures,
- (b) it be agreed that petitions should only be considered from people who live, work or study in Sunderland,
- (c) it be agreed that the Chief Officers listed in the Scheme only be called to give evidence for petitions holding Chief Officers to account,
- (d) the Chief Solicitor, in consultation with the relevant Chief Officer, Portfolio Holder, or Chairman of a Committee, be granted delegated authority to reject petitions which are considered to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate, and
- (e) the current practice of reporting to Council on the action taken on petitions in respect of those petitions submitted at full Council be continued.

4. Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2010/2011

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of City Services (copy circulated) on the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2010/2011 and to seek approval of the Plan.

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

They had also referred the report to the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee had welcomed the report and had endorsed the Plan.

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.

Scrutiny Committees – Annual Report 2009/2010

The Chief Executive submitted the first combined Annual Scrutiny Report (copy circulated) which summarised the work of each of the undermentioned seven Scrutiny Committees during the year 2009/2010:-

- (i) Management Scrutiny Committee
- (ii) Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee
- (iii) Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee
- (vi) Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee
- (v) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
- (vi) Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee
- (vii) Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Tate, duly seconded by Councillor T. Wright, moved the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees and it was:-

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be received and noted.

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Annual Report on the Work of the Standards Committee 2009-2010

That they had given consideration to a report by the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated), being the second Annual Report to Council and having been prepared on the work of the Standards Committee during 2009-2010.

Accordingly, the Committee had recommended Council to note the Annual Report on the Work of the Standards Committee 2009-2010.

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

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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.

Action Taken On Petitions

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

- (i) Petition from 202 petitioners requesting Sunderland City Council to consider the installation of a canopy roof to cover SK8 City at Silksworth Ski Slope to allow users safe access to the facility during wet weather. Presented by Councillor Philip Tye on 31st March, 2010**

The Executive Director of City Services had proposed to consider the SK8 City canopy in the context of the development of the next wave of priorities

during the forthcoming update of the Play and Urban Games Strategy. Given the economic climate and the public sector investment to date in play, it had been considered that there were limited prospects of securing financial support for this project. In addition the Play and Urban Games Strategy had identified a primary priority of ensuring all children and young people had access to facilities within 1km of their home.

Whilst the Play Pathfinder programme had accelerated the delivery of the strategy by two years and at its conclusion 60% of children and young people would have access, work would need to continue to deliver improvements to ensure all children had access.

Councillor Tye and the Lead petitioner were to be notified

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 – Corporate Parenting Board, Children Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, North East Regional Arts Council, Sunderland Centre for Voluntary Services and the Sunnyside Partnership

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report and an addendum report (copies circulated) requesting Council to consider the allocation of seats on the Corporate Parenting Board, the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, the Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, the North East Regional Arts Council, the Sunderland Centre for Voluntary Services and the Sunnyside Partnership.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

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

RESOLVED that approval be given to:

- (i) the request of the Leader of the Majority Group in Opposition that Councillor Francis be replaced on the Corporate Parenting Board by Councillor Ivan Richardson,
- (ii) the noting of the resignation of Mrs Pat Burn, the Co-opted representative of the Sunderland Community Matters on the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee,

- (iii) the nomination of the portfolio holders for Healthy City and Safer City to replace Councillor N. Wright as the Council's representatives on the Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and the North East Regional Arts Council respectively,
- (iv) the nomination of Councillor F Anderson to replace Councillor McClennan on the Sunderland Centre for Voluntary Services, and
- (v) the nomination of the Deputy Chief Executive to replace the Executive Director of City Services as the Council's representative on the Sunnyside Partnership.

(Signed) T. MARTIN,
Mayor.