

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Deputy Mayor (Councillor I Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, P.	Morrissey	Tye
	Anderson	Gofton	Oliver	Vardy
	Ball	Hall, A.	Padgett	Wakefield
	Bell	Heron	Porthouse	Walker
	Blackburn	Howe	Richardson, D.	Waller
	Bonallie	Kay	Rolph	Walton, L.
	Charlton	Kelly	Scanlan	Watson, P.
	Copeland	Lauchlan	Scaplehorn	Watson, S.
	Curran	Macknight	Scott, J	Williams
	Emerson	Maddison	Shattock	Wilson, A.
	Errington	Martin, L.	Smith, D.	Wiper
	Essl	Martin, T.	Smith, P.	Wood
	Forbes, M.	McClennan	Snowdon	Wright, A.
	Foster, S.	Miller, F.	Speding	Wright, T.
	Francis	Miller, G.	Tate	
	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.	

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7 December, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

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

Item 7(2) - Report of the Cabinet – Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel	Councillors Allan, Anderson, Ball, Bell, Blackburn, Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Curran, Emerson, Errington, Essl, M. Forbes, S. Foster, Francis, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Gofton, A. Hall, Heron, Howe, Kay, Kelly,	Members of the Council
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Lauchlan, Macknight,
Maddison, L. Martin, T. Martin,
McClennan, F. Miller, G.
Miller, Mordey, Morrissey,
Oliver, Padgett, Porthouse, D.
Richardson, Rolph, Scanlan,
Scaplehorn, J. Scott, Shattock,
D. Smith, P. Smith, Snowdon,
Speding, Tate, D. Trueman,
Tye, Vardy, Wakefield,
Walker, Waller, L. Walton, P.
Watson, S. Watson, Williams,
A. Wilson, Wiper, Wood, A.
Wright, T. Wright.

Item 7(3) - Report of the
Cabinet – Calculation of
Council Tax Base

Councillors Anderson,
Blackburn and Tate

Member of Hetton Town
Council

Item 7(4) - Report of the
Cabinet – Revenue
Budget Proposals
2012/2013

Councillor Tate

Chair of Hetton Home
Care

Announcements

(i) Sir Tom Cowie OBE

The Deputy Mayor paid tribute to a former Freeman of the City, Sir Tom Cowie OBE, who had recently passed away aged 89 years. Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the former Freeman of the City.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the under mentioned petition, submitted by the Councillor named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, to the Chief Officer indicated: -

Cllr. M. Essl – Petition urging Sunderland City Council to reduce the speed limit around Richard Avenue Primary School to 20 mph to improve safety for nearby children and families – Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ellis, Fairs, Fletcher, T. Foster, Gallagher, I. Richardson, Smiles, Stewart, Thompson, H. Trueman, Wake and N. Wright.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2010/2011

That they had given consideration to a report (copy circulated) of the Chief Executive on the Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter covering the year 2010/2011 together with a copy of the Audit Letter which had 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 recommended the Council to note the contents of the report.

2. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel

They that had given consideration to a joint report (copy circulated) of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services on the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of Members' Allowances.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme, as detailed in Appendix 2 and to backdate the amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme to 1 April, 2011.

3. Calculation of Council Tax Base

That they had given consideration to a report (copy circulated) of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 in accordance with the Local Governance Finance Act 1992 and recommended to Council that: -

- (i) the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2012/2013 be approved, and
- (ii) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax

Bases) (Amended) (England) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by the City of Sunderland Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2012/2013, shall be £81,202 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £4,130.

4. Revenue Budget Proposals 2012/2012

That they had given consideration to a joint report (copy circulated) of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services noting the impact of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2012/2013 and submitting the provisional budget proposals for 2012/2013 as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2012/2013.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/2013.

The Cabinet had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee had congratulated the Cabinet on providing for an apprenticeship scheme in Streetscene in the current economic climate, and had welcomed the proposal that there would be no Council Tax discount offered to long term empty properties with effect from 1 April 2012. In addition, they noted the increase in income to schools through the pupil premium.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, moved the report of the Cabinet.

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor A. Wright, then moved that Item 2 of the Cabinet report, Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel, be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration in the light of the savings that the Council had to make.

Upon being put to the vote, the reference back was defeated with 49 Members voting against, viz:-

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor I. Kay)

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Anderson	Gibson, P.	Padgett	Tye
	Ball	Gofton	Porthouse	Wakefield
	Bell	Hall, A.	Richardson, D.	Walker
	Blackburn	Heron	Rolph	Waller
	Bonallie	Kay	Scanlan	Watson, P.
	Charlton	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Watson, S.
	Copeland	Lauchlan	Scott, J	Williams

Curran	Macknight	Shattock	Wilson, A.
Emerson	Martin, T.	Smith, P.	Wright, T.
Errington	McClennan	Snowdon	
Essl	Miller, F.	Speding	
Foster, S.	Miller, G.	Tate	

And 12 Members voting for, viz:-

Councillors	Francis	Maddison	Smith, D.	Wiper
	Forbes, M.	Morrissey	Vardy	Wood
	Howe	Oliver	Walton, L.	Wright, A.

Upon the Report of the Cabinet being put to the meeting, it was: -

RESOLVED that the views of the Scrutiny Committee be noted and the report of Cabinet be approved and adopted.

The Regulatory Committee reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Regulation of Sexual Entertainment Venues

That they had given consideration to a report (copy circulated) of the Executive Director of City Services on the adoption of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy and had agreed to: -

- (i) approve the amendments to the draft sexual entertainment venue policy recommended in paragraph 4.0 of the report;
- (ii) approve the adoption of the draft sexual entertainment venue policy; and

Accordingly, the Committee had recommended the Council to approve and adopt the final Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy.

Councillor A Wilson, duly seconded by Councillor MacKnight, having moved the report, it was:-

RESOLVED that the report of the Regulatory 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.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the under mentioned reports on action taken in relation to petitions which had been presented to Council.

(i) Petition requesting that Service X2 between Sunderland and Newcastle be reinstated – Presented by Councillor Morrissey on 20 July 2011

The Executive Director of City Services reported that Nexus was responsible for the coordination and assessment of public transport need within Tyne and Wear, and therefore the petition had been referred to Nexus for consideration. Nexus had approached bus operator Go North East regarding the request to reinstate Service X2 to Newcastle.

Go North East had declined to reinstate Service X2 as they had withdrawn the service in June 2010 and replaced it with revisions to Service 8 running between Sunderland and Washington and connecting Service X1 running between Washington and Newcastle because their survey data had shown that very few passengers travelled the full route between Sunderland and Newcastle, via Washington.

Nexus had stated that it could not justify reinstating Service X2 as a secured bus service funded by Nexus, within current budget restrictions because the Services 8 and X1 provided alternatives maintaining most of the links and frequencies of the previous Service X2.

In view of Go North East's decision and Nexus' statement, no further action was to be taken with respect to the petitioners' request to have Bus Service X2 between Sunderland and Newcastle reinstated.

Councillor Morrissey and the lead petitioner had been notified of the decision.

(ii) Petition from residents of Hudson Road, Sunderland requesting parking permits for outside their homes – presented to Council by Councillor T. Martin on 20 July 2011

The Executive Director of City Services had declined the petition from residents of Hudson Road, Hendon, requesting that the Council introduce a residents parking scheme.

The petition had been declined as the Council had recently introduced a pilot Parking Management Scheme in the area around the Sunderland Royal Hospital. The results of this pilot would be evaluated and would form Council policy in respect of other requests for local parking management schemes including that of Hudson Road.

Councillor T. Martin and the lead petitioner had been informed accordingly.

(iii) Petition requesting the Council to provide an increased level of dog control enforcement around Lakeside Village and Silksworth Lake to prevent fouling and dogs running loose – presented by Councillor Allan and Councillor A. Wright on 20 July 2011

The Executive Director of City Services had declined the petition which had been signed by 339 residents.

The petition had been declines because, following observations and increased monitoring of the area, there had been no evidence to substantiate that there was a particular dog problem in relation to dog fouling or owners not being in control of their dogs. Officers within the Directorate would continue to monitor the situation and deal with any issues as they occurred.

Councillor A. Wright and the lead petitioner had been informed accordingly.

Notice of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – New Wear Bridge

The Leader, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved a motion relating to the Government's decision to award financing for the proposed New Wear Bridge.

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

RESOLVED that the City of Sunderland Council is pleased to acknowledge the Coalition Government's decision to award £82m to enable the building of phase two (Wear Bridge) of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor.

This decision will enable the City to move forward with our Economic Master plan which is central to the future prosperity of the City. As such we very much welcome this decision.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Closure of Remploy Factories

Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor Speding, moved a motion relating to the proposed closure of all Remploy Factories.

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

RESOLVED that in the event that the Tory led Coalition Government implement the Sayce Report and carries out the closure of all Remploy Factories. This Council commits to support, as far as possible, those employees of Remploy resident within this City and will seek to assess not only the implications of any such closure but also the social and economic impact on some of our most vulnerable citizens”

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 – Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Back On The Map Limited

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider appointments to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee and Back on the Map Limited.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader moved the recommendations contained within the report and was duly seconded by Councillor Speding.

RESOLVED that approval be give to the: -

- (i) appointment of Ms Ann Blakey as the co-opted representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese on the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee in place of Mr Malcolm Frank;
- (ii) nomination of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as the Council's representative on the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011.2012, such nomination to be subject to the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill and the proviso set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report, and
- (iii) appointment of Councillor Michael Mordey to the board of Back on the Map Limited.

(Signed) I. KAY.
Deputy Mayor.