

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Curran) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Emerson)

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Leadbitter	Taylor
	Allen	Forbes	MacKnight	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Foster	McClennan	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Francis	Marshall	Turner
	Blackburn	Galbraith, G.	Middleton	Turton, W.
	Copeland	Galbraith, I.	Mordey	Tye
	Cummings	Gallagher	O'Neil	Walker, P.
	Davison	Gibson, E.	Porthouse	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Gibson, P.	Price	Waters
	Dixon, M.	Gofton	Scanlan	Watson, P.
	Elliott	Heron	Smith, D.	Watson, S.
	Ellis	Howe	Smith, P.	Williams
	English	Jackson	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, A.
	Essl	Kay	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Farr	Kelly	Speding	Wright, N.
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Stewart	

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - M.L. Arnott, M. Smith.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

8. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20th May, 2015 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Announcements

(i) Sunderland BME Network “One Voice” Community Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Deputy Leader Councillor H. Trueman informed Members of the receipt of two awards from the Sunderland BME Network “One Voice” Community Awards. The awards were for:-

- Public Sector Organisation,
- Contribution to the Sustainable Sunderland Partnership.

(ii) North East Better Health at Work Award Certificate

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Kelly informed Members that the Council had recently been awarded Continuing Excellence status under the North East Better Health at Work Award, a regional scheme that recognised companies, large and small, that valued the health and wellbeing of their employees.

The award was the culmination of four years of fantastic work by a number of teams across the council, focused on improving the health and wellbeing of employees. There had been many developments, campaigns and activities completed throughout this time and work was now on-going towards maintaining the level of the Award and mentoring other organisations across the City through the process.

(iii) Raich Carter Sports Centre – Recreation Facility of the Year

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Ball informed Members that in March 2015 the Raich Carter Sports Centre had won the ‘Recreation Facility of the Year’ category in the Tyne and Wear ‘What’s on Awards’, sponsored by Best Western.

Awards had been made in 16 categories with the aim to reward the top performing businesses, including restaurants, children’s entertainment venues, takeaways, parks, arts venues and hotels. The awards received nominations from across Tyne and Wear and were voted for by the readers of the Sunderland Echo and Shields Gazette.

In its category, the Raich Carter Sports Centre was shortlisted and up against some strong opposition including the Aquatic Centre, Haven Point South Shields and the Sunderland Wall.

The Centre Manager, Craig Jobson, had commented that ‘over the last year the Board of Directors and centre staff had worked exceptionally hard to ensure that our customers were provided with the best possible service when using our facilities or participating in activity programmes – this award was testament to the hard work of both staff and Board Members’.

Reception of Petitions

9. RESOLVED that the under-mentioned petitions, submitted by the Councillors named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme:-

Councillor Ellen Ball – Petition from residents to request that Sunderland City Council install street lighting columns on the footpaths that cross the area known as the Store Field, Ryhope and carry out repairs to these footpaths. – Executive Director of Commercial Development.

Councillor Gillian Galbraith – Petition from residents of Oakfield Court and the surrounding area to request the reinstatement of the number 35A bus service from East Herrington to Silksworth by Go North East. – Go North East, Nexus and the Executive Director of Commercial Development.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, Beck, Lawson, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, M. Turton, Wood, T.H. Wright and Alderman Greenfield.

Area Committees Annual Report 2014/15

The Chief Executive submitted the Combined Area Committee Annual Report (copy circulated) which summarised the work of the five Area Committees during the year 2014/2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Gofton, duly seconded by Councillor P. Gibson, moved the Combined Annual Report of the Area Committees and accordingly it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees during 2014/2015, as outlined in the Annual Report, be received and noted.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

The Chief Executive submitted the Annual Scrutiny Report (copy circulated) which summarised the work of the Scrutiny Committee and panels during the year 2014/2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor N. Wright, duly seconded by Councillor D.E. Snowdon, moved the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee and accordingly it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the operation, achievements and impact of the Scrutiny Committee during 2014/2015, as outlined in the Annual 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.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested that the council consider the appointments of Vice Chairman of the East Sunderland Area Committee and Chairman of the East Sunderland Area Place Board, Alternate Vice Chairman of the East Sunderland Area Committee and Chairman of the East Sunderland Area People Board, Representation on the Corporate Parenting Board from the East Sunderland Area People Board, Representation on the South and East Children's Centre Local Advisory Partnership Board and representation on Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

12. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Councillor Elizabeth Gibson be appointed Vice Chairman of the East Sunderland Area Committee and Chair of the East Sunderland Place Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year;
- (ii) Councillor Christine Marshall be appointed alternate Vice Chairman of the East Sunderland Area Committee and Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board, as the East Sunderland Area People Board representative on the Corporate Parenting Board and to serve on the South and East Children's Centre Local Advisory Partnership Board; and
- (iii) Councillor Bernard Scaplehorn be appointed in place of Councillor Paul Middleton on the Management Committee of the Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Dismissal of Statutory Officers – Mandatory Standing Orders

The Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Head of Law and Governance submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the introduction of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, which required amendments to the Council's Constitution in order to reflect new provisions in respect of the dismissal of certain statutory officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer and to recommend appropriate amendments to the Constitution to be agreed no later than the first ordinary Council meeting after the Annual Meeting.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

13. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) a Dismissal Advisory Committee with the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 be established; and
- (ii) the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader to be authorised to :-
 - a. Amend Article 4 of the Constitution to provide that the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer is a function of full Council.
 - b. Amend the Employment Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix 2.
 - c. Amend Part 3 of the Constitution – “Responsibility for Functions” to include the Dismissal Advisory Committee.
 - d. Make such other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution as considered appropriate in order to comply with the requirements of the Regulations and to reflect the proposals set out in the report.
 - e. Determine the level of remuneration, allowances or fees to be paid to an Independent Person who was appointed to the Dismissal Advisory Committee, such remuneration, allowances or fees not to exceed the level payable to the Independent Person in respect of that person's role as Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

14. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(Signed) B. CURRAN,
Mayor.

