

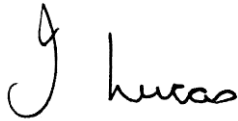
CIVIC CENTRE,
SUNDERLAND
12 March 2018

TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

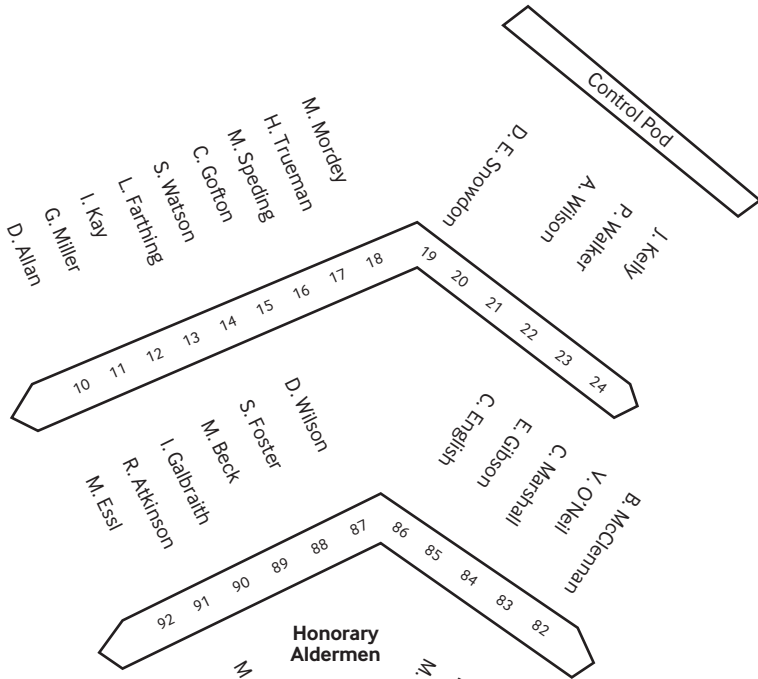
YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING of Sunderland City Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Sunderland, on **WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018** at **6.00 p.m.** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business:-

Item	Page
1. To read the Notice convening the meeting.	-
2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 March 2018 (copy herewith).	1
3. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any).	-
4. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(iv).	-
5. Reception of Petitions.	-
6. Apologies.	-

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 7. | Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 9. | - |
| 8. | Report of the Cabinet (copy herewith). | 19 |
| 9. | Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 10.2. | - |
| 10. | To consider the attached motion (copy herewith). | 45 |
| 11. | To consider the following report:- | 49 |
| | (i) Update on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy herewith). | |



IRÈNE LUCAS CBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.



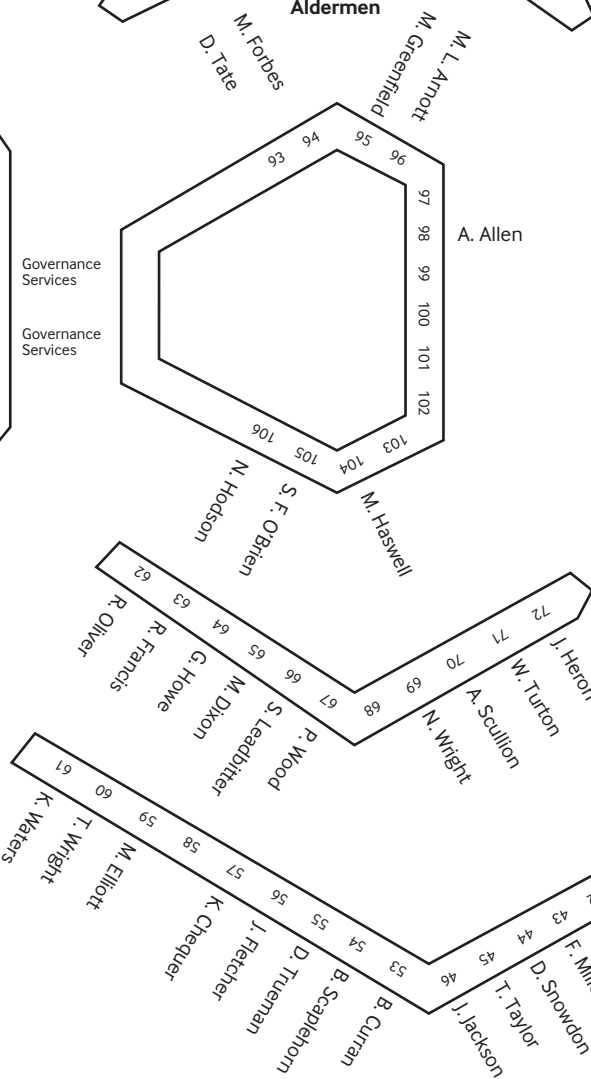
Governance Services
Governance Services

Head of Law and Governance
E. Waugh

Mayor
D. MacKnight

Chief Executive
I. Lucas

Deputy Mayor
L. Scanlan

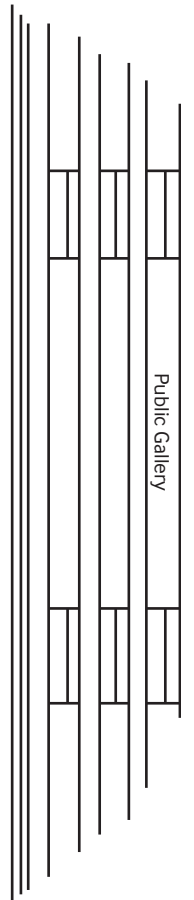


81 80 79 78 77 76 75 74 73

D. Waller
K. Johnston
M. Turton
R. Davison
P. Stewart
R. Bell
A. Emerson
P. Hunt
E. Ball

29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

A. Lawson
G. Walker
P. Tye
P. Gibson
P. Smith
D. Turner
J. Blackburn
J. Cummings
P. Middleton
D. Dixon
G. Galbraith
S. Porthouse



Press

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2017 at 2.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor MacKnight) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Scanlan)

Councillors	Allan	Foster	Kelly	Snowdon, D
	Atkinson	Francis	Lauchlan	Snowdon, DE
	Ball	Galbraith, G	Lawson	Speding
	Beck	Galbraith, I	Marshall	Taylor, A
	Bell	Gibson, E	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Middleton	Trueman, H
	Chequer	Gofton	Miller, F	Turner
	Davison	Haswell	Miller, G	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Heron	Mordey	Walker, P
	Dixon, M	Hodson	O'Brien	Watson
	Elliott	Howe	Oliver	Williams
	Emerson	Hunt	O'Neil	Wilson, A
	Essl	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Wood
	Farthing	Johnston	Scullion	
	Fletcher	Kay	Smith	

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman	M Arnott	M Greenfield
	RD Tate	M Forbes

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

Councillor P Gibson advised that no vote had been recorded for himself in respect of the motion to extend time for responding to written questions, that had been considered at the January Council meeting; although he had exercised his vote, it had not been recorded.

Alderman Arnott advised that he had submitted his apologies for absence for the meeting however they were not recorded. He requested that they be included.

Subject to the above it was:-

49. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 24 January be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 8 (i) – Report of the Cabinet – Capital Programme 2018/2019 to 2021/2022 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2018/2019, including Prudential Indicators for 2018/2019 to 2020/2021	Councillors Fletcher, Lawson and Wilson, A.	Board Member of Sunderland Care and Support
Item 8 (ii) – Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2018/2019 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021	Councillors Fletcher, Lawson and A. Wilson	Board Member of Sunderland Care and Support
	Councillor Kelly	Board Member of Beamish Museum Ltd, Sunderland Culture Ltd and Leisure Partnership Joint Venture
	Councillor Mordey	Member of Unite the Union

Announcements

There were no announcements to be made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allen, A., Curran, English, Leadbitter, Porthouse, Stewart, Turton, M., Turton, W., Tye, Waller, Waters, Williams, Wilson, D., and Wright, N.

Election of the Leader of the Council

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which advised that the majority group had elected Councillor Henry Trueman as leader of the group until the Annual Meeting in May 2018. The report advised that it was convention for the Leader of the Council to be the Leader of the largest political group on the Council.

Accordingly, the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Speding, duly seconded by Councillor Mordey, moved that Councillor Henry Trueman be elected as Leader of the Council, his term of office to be until the Annual Meeting in May 2018.

Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved that the appointment be subject to a recorded vote.

Upon being put to the vote, the election of Councillor Henry Trueman as Leader of the Council was declared to be carried with 48 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Allan	Farthing	Kelly	Smith
	Atkinson	Fletcher	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D
	Ball	Foster	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Beck	Galbraith, G	Marshall	Speding
	Bell	Gibson, E	McClennan	Taylor, A
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Chequer	Gofton	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Davison	Heron	Mordey	Turner
	Dixon, D	Hunt	O'Neil	Walker, G
	Elliott	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Walker, P
	Emerson	Johnston	Scanlan	Watson
	Essl	Kay	Scullion	Wilson, A

And 3 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Haswell	Hodson	O'Brien
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And 4 Members abstaining:-

Councillors	Dixon, M.	Francis	Oliver	Wood
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Accordingly it was:-

50. RESOLVED THAT:-

- (i) Councillor Henry Trueman be elected Leader of the Council, his term of office to be until the Annual Meeting in May, 2018;
- (ii) The Leader's appointment of councillor Mordey as Deputy Leader of the Council be noted; and
- (iii) The decision of the Leader in respect of the membership of Cabinet and portfolio responsibilities remaining unchanged be noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments to be made in respect of various Committees and outside bodies and also informed Council of appointments made by Councillor H. Trueman to a number of bodies established under joint arrangements.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, moved that the recommendations contained in the report and supplementary report be approved and it was: -

51. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Councillor Hodson be appointed to the Human Resources Committee;
- (ii) Councillor Hodson be appointed as a replacement Member to Councillor Cummings on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;
- (iii) Councillor O'Brien be appointed as a replacement Member to Councillor Elliott on the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
- (iv) Councillor O'Brien be appointed as a replacement Member to Councillor Essl on the Economic and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) Councillor Oliver be appointed as a replacement Member to Councillor O'Brien on the Education (Appointment of Governors Panel);
- (vi) Councillor Howe be removed as a Member of the Appeals Committee and the two positions for majority group Councillors remain vacant until Annual Council;
- (vii) Councillor Haswell be appointed as a Member to the West Sunderland Area Committee;
- (viii) Councillor Trueman be confirmed as appointed as Leader of the Council to the following external bodies: Port Board, Health and Wellbeing Board; ANEC Limited; ANEC Limited: Leaders' and Elected Mayor's Group; Newcastle Airport Local Authority Holding Company Limited; North East Combined Authority: North East Leadership Board, North East Local Enterprise Board and Northumbria Police and Crime Panel;
- (ix) Councillor Mordey be confirmed as appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council to the following external bodies: North East Combined Authority: North East Leadership Board (as a substitute) and Northumbria Police and Crime Panel;
- (x) Councillor English be appointed as a replacement Member to Councillor T. Wright to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority with effect from 11 March, 2018;
- (xi) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to nominate a Member to be removed from the Board of Gentoo Group Limited, following the local elections in May, 2018;

- (xii) The appointment of Councillor Trueman, as Deputy Leader of the Council, whilst undertaking the duties and responsibilities of the Leader to the following bodies; Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board to the North East Combined Authority, Transport for North East Committee (as the substitute Member) and Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub Committee (as substitute Member) be noted.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

That they had referred the initial proposals on the Revenue Budget to the Scrutiny Co-Ordinating Committee:

- On 12 October 2017, in relation to the reference from Cabinet of 20th September, 2017 – Report on the Budget Planning Framework, Revenue Budget Proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 - 2020/2021:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the continued difficult financial pressures and constraints that the Council must operate within, despite many uncertainties still remaining, the Committee was satisfied with the information provided as well as acknowledging the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the budget planning process and had no additional comment to make.

- On 10 January 2018 in relation to the reference from Cabinet of 10th January 2018 – Report on the Revenue Budget 2018/2019 to 2020/21 - Update and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the challenging financial situation that the Council continued to operate within and is satisfied with the content of the report presented. The Committee also acknowledged the continued work and commitment of Members and Officers in developing proposals for a balanced budget under such difficult financial constraints.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2018/19 to 2021/22 to the Scrutiny Co-Ordinating Committee

- On 10 January 2018, in relation to the reference from Cabinet of 13 December 2017 – Capital Programme Planning report:

The Scrutiny Committee acknowledged the capital programme and is satisfied with the proposed variation to the capital programme.

That they had also submitted the attached report numbered 1 to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.

- On 2 February 2018, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2018/2019.

The committee was pleased to note that the careful and prudent approach adopted by the Council in previous years would continue.

The Committee also noted the Borrowing and Investment Strategies and that the Council continued to follow fundamental principles in relation to the prudent investment of treasury balances which had resulted in the rate of return on investments being consistently higher than the benchmark rate.

The Committee were satisfied that the arrangements for Treasury Management were in an excellent position for the next and future years and resolved that the Council be advised accordingly.

Subsequently

The precept figures have been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 7 February 2018:

- For the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria (PCCN) this will mean an increase of 12.2% (flat rate Band D £12 increase) in the precept level for 2018/2019;
- The precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority(TWFRA) have been confirmed as a 2.99% increase in the precept level for 2018/2019;
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council have been confirmed as an increase of 2% in the precept level for 2018/2019.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2018/2019 reflects the above notified 2018/2019 precept levels in respect of all of the Precepting Authorities and the figures as reported remain unchanged.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2018/2019 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021”, Appendix F had not been printed with this item, but the recommendation, which included all of the substantive content of the report, was set out in full at item 3.

1. Capital Programme 2018/2019 to 2021/2022 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2018/2019, including Prudential Indicators for 2018/2019 to 2020/2021

That they had given consideration to the attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and recommended that approval be given to:

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/2019;
- the Council's Capital Strategy 2018/2019 to 2021/2022;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2018/2019 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2018/2019 to 2020/2021; and
- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2018/2019.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve:-

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/2019;
- (ii) the Council's Capital Strategy 2018/2019 to 2021/2022;
- (iii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2018/2019 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iv) the Prudential Indicators for 2018/2019 to 2020/2021; and
- (v) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2018/2019.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2018/2019 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021

That they had given consideration to the attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services on:

- (i) the overall revenue budget position for 2018/2019;
- (ii) the projected balances position as at 31st March 2018 and 31st March 2019 and advise on their level;
- (iii) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2018/2019;
- (iv) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021, and associated Council Efficiency strategy; and
- (v) any views received from the North East Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve:-

- the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2018/2019 set out at Appendix J; and

- the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021 including Efficiency Strategy as set out Appendix G and the proposed use of Capital Receipts Flexibility set out at section 9 of the report.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2018/2019

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2018/2019 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2018/2019, and advising that the Council Tax is calculated using the tax bases for the areas of the City Council and Hetton Town Council as approved by Council on 24 January 2018, and setting out a number of resolutions required to be made to determine the Council Tax, including the confirmed precepts from the Major Precepting Authorities and the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

They therefore recommended the report to Council

- having advised of the statutory requirements to recommend to Council a proposed Council Tax Requirement which for Sunderland will mean a 4.99% increase to the Council Tax for 2018/2019.

and

- that Council confirm the Council Tax Requirement for its own purposes is £95,147,865 (excluding Parish precepts),

and

- i) it be noted that at its meeting on 24 January 2018 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):

- a) 69,991 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the above regulation of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax Base for the year (Item T).
- b) 3,711 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

- ii) The Council Tax Leaflet be made available on the Council's website and for this to be signposted on Council Tax bills. In order to meet timescales for publication, it is proposed responsibility for finalising the document be delegated to the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

- iii) The following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - a) £646,388,605 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

 - b) £551,187,079 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

 - c) £95,201,526 being the amount by which the aggregate at (iii) (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii) (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year including Parish precepts (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act)

 - d) £1,360.1967 being the amount at (iii) (c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T ((i) (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

 - e) £53,661 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 (1) of the Act.

 - f) £1,359.4300 being the amount at (iii) (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii) (e) above by the Item T ((i) (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

- g) £1,373.8900 being the amount given by adding to the amount at (iii) (f) above the amount (iii) (e) divided by the amount at (i) (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.

h) **Parts of the Council's Area**

Valuation Bands	Hetton Town Council	All other parts of the Council's Area
A	£ 915.93	£ 906.29
B	£ 1,068.58	£ 1,057.33
C	£ 1,221.24	£ 1,208.38
D	£ 1,373.89	£ 1,359.43
E	£ 1,679.20	£ 1,661.53
F	£ 1,984.51	£ 1,963.62
G	£ 2,289.82	£ 2,265.72
H	£ 2,747.78	£ 2,718.86

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii) (f) and (iii) (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (iv) it be noted that for the year 2018/2019, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria have confirmed the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings as follows:

Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
A	£ 73.55	£ 53.29
B	£ 85.81	£ 62.18
C	£ 98.07	£ 71.06
D	£110.33	£ 79.94

E	£134.85	£ 97.70
F	£159.37	£115.47
G	£183.88	£133.23
H	£220.66	£159.88

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii) (h) and (iv) above and having received confirmation of the precept in paragraph (iv), the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/2019 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Parts of the Council's Area

Valuation Bands	Hetton Town Council	All other parts of the Council's Area
A	£ 1,042.77	£ 1,033.13
B	£ 1,216.57	£ 1,205.32
C	£ 1,390.37	£ 1,377.51
D	£ 1,564.16	£ 1,549.70
E	£ 1,911.75	£ 1,894.08
F	£ 2,259.35	£ 2,238.46
G	£ 2,606.93	£ 2,582.83
H	£ 3,128.32	£ 3,099.40

- (vi) It be noted that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/2019 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed Council Tax increase for 2018/2019 means that the Council does not need to hold a referendum on its proposed council tax. The provisions set out in Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require all billing authorities (councils and precept authorities (i.e. Fire and Police authorities)) to hold a referendum on their proposed level of basic Council Tax each year if they exceed government guidelines set out annually.)

- (vii) It be noted that as Council Tax bills must show year on year increases to one decimal place in accordance with government regulations, the proposed increase of 4.99% for 2018/2019 will appear as 3.0% in respect of the council and 2.0% in respect of the adult social care precept which must be separately identified.

The Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Secretary and Portfolio Holders having spoken on the report, the Mayor advised that there were amendments proposed by the Majority Party in Opposition and the Minority Party in Opposition.

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue Budget from the majority party in opposition was moved by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Francis.

The Amendment to the proposals was as follows:-

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget

Reduce rise in council tax from 4.99% to 3%

Decrease revenue budget by £1,812,000

Delete:

£1.5million from street cleaning.

£200,000 costs of trade union representatives.

£136,340 members allowances

Increase revenue from parking by £100,000

Increase:

£27,680-replacement of wheelie bins reported to the police.

£86,660-Highways Operational revenue budget

£10,000-plastic bottles recycling.

In accordance with the requirement of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for a named vote to be taken with regard to any budget decision made, Amendment 1 on the Revenue Budget proposals was put to the vote with 5 Members voting in favour as follows: -

Councillors	Dixon, M. Francis	Howe	Oliver	Wood
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And 52 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Kay	Scullion
	Atkinson	Foster	Kelly	Smith
	Ball	Galbraith, G	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D
	Beck	Galbraith, I	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Bell	Gibson, E	Marshall	Speding
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	McClennan	Taylor, A
	Chequer	Gofton	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Davison	Haswell	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Dixon, D	Heron	Mordey	Turner
	Elliott	Hodson	O'Brien	Walker, G
	Emerson	Hunt	O'Neil	Walker, P
	Essl	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Watson
	Farthing	Johnston	Scanlan	Wilson, A

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue Budget from the minority party in opposition was moved by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor O'Brien. The proposed Amendment was as follows:-

Amendment 2 – Revenue Budget

Additional Savings Proposals	£
Bring forward the full savings from the two-year Review of Legal Services in 2018/19	-85,000
Bring forward the savings from the two-year Review of HR&OD in 2018/19	-50,000
Bring forward the full savings from the two-year Review of Registrars staffing and fees in 2018/19	-50,000
Move to four-yearly all-up elections	-250,000
Review of Governance services: reduction of area committees budget by £100,000 and reducing number of area committees to three committees, coterminous with parliamentary constituencies	-100,000
Review of Governance Services to include movement to an email plus 'print on demand for collection' model for delivering documents to members	-10,000
Review and reduction of special responsibility allowances to save £250,000	-250,000
Roles of mayor and deputy mayor to be replaced by unpaid elected chairperson and deputy chairperson and allowances removed	-23,000
Reduce Councillor's expenses, food and drink provision, subsistence allowance and no longer provide meals at Council meetings	-36,000
Introduce a workplace parking levy for Elected Members	-15,000
Total Additional Savings	-869,000
Priority investments	
Reinstate disabled student travel support	60,000
(Re)instate a means-tested pest control service (i.e. free to those on pensions, benefits, unemployed and low-waged households)	50,000

(Re)instate a means-tested bulky item collection service (i.e. free to those on pensions, benefits, unemployed and low-waged households)	146,000
Increase funding to Library and Museum service (staffing of museum and library) removed in last year's budget	53,000
Reinstate voluntary community sector contracts support for agencies supporting disabled and young people	560,000
Three extra staff to work on bringing empty homes back into use, with a target of 65 properties a year over 3 years. To be funded from additional new homes bonus.	0
Total Priority Investments	869,000
Grand Total of all proposals and impact on net budget for Council Tax Requirement	0

Amendment 2 on the Revenue Budget proposals was put to the vote with 3 Members voting in favour as follows: -

Councillors	Haswell	Hodson	O'Brien
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And 55 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Kelly	Smith
	Atkinson	Foster	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D
	Ball	Francis	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Beck	Galbraith, G	Marshall	Speding
	Bell	Galbraith, I	McClennan	Taylor
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Chequer	Gibson, P	Miller, F	Trueman, H
	Davison	Gofton	Miller, G	Turner
	Dixon, D	Heron	Mordey	Walker, G
	Dixon, M	Howe	O'Neil	Walker, P
	Elliott	Hunt	Oliver	Watson
	Emerson	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Wilson, A
	Essl	Johnston	Scanlan	Wood
	Farthing	Kay	Scullion	

The proposed Amendment to the Capital Budget from the minority party in opposition was moved by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

The proposed Amendment was as follows:-

Amendment 3 – Capital Budget:

Additional Savings Proposals	£
Cancel Software Centre Carpark improvements	-365,000
Cancel Port improvement projects	-3,376,000
Reduce Tall Ships infrastructure funding	-500,000
Reduce Council contribution to 'increasing access to heritage' project	-500,000
Reduce 'Crowtree public realm' budget	-1,750,000
Total Additional Savings	6,491,000

Priority Investments

Investment in Housing Services budget to tackle empty housing	2,000,000
Establish an additional discretionary road resurfacing fund	2,000,000
Develop a new public library and city community hub at the Crowtree site	2,491,000
Total Priority Investments	6,491,000

Amendment 3 on the Capital Budget proposals was put to the vote with 3 Members voting in favour as follows: -

Councillors	Haswell	Hodson	O'Brien
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And 55 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D
	Atkinson	Foster	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Ball	Francis	Marshall	Speding
	Beck	Galbraith, G	McClennan	Taylor
	Bell	Galbraith, I	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Miller, F	Trueman, H
	Chequer	Gibson, P	Miller, G	Turner
	Davison	Gofton	Mordey	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Heron	O'Neil	Walker, P
	Dixon, M	Hunt	Oliver	Watson
	Elliott	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Williams
	Emerson	Johnston	Scanlan	Wilson, A
	Essl	Kay	Scullion	Wood
	Farthing	Kelly	Smith	

The substantive motion on the report of the Cabinet to be approved and adopted was then put to the vote.

In accordance with the requirement of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for a named vote to be taken with regard to any budget decision made, the substantive motion was put to the vote with 51 Members voting in favour as follows: -

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D
	Atkinson	Foster	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Ball	Galbraith, G	Marshall	Speding
	Beck	Galbraith, I	McClennan	Taylor
	Bell	Gibson, E	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Miller, F	Trueman, H
	Chequer	Gofton	Miller, G	Turner
	Davison	Heron	Mordey	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Hunt	O'Neil	Walker, P
	Elliott	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Watson
	Emerson	Johnston	Scanlan	Williams
	Essl	Kay	Scullion	Wilson, A
	Farthing	Kelly	Smith	

And 7 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Dixon, M	Haswell	O'Brien	Wood
	Francis	Hodson	Oliver	

Accordingly it was: -

52. RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

(Signed) D. MACKNIGHT,
Mayor

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Pay Policy Statement 2018-2019

That at its meeting on 21 March, Cabinet will consider the attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services to seek approval for publication, after agreement by Council on 21st March 2018, the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19.

Cabinet's recommendation, as to the Pay Policy Statement to be approved for 2018/2019 and published on the Council's website by 31 March 2018, will be reported to the Council meeting.

2. Members' Allowances Scheme – 2018/2019

That at its meeting on 21 March, Cabinet will consider the attached joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Law and Governance on the members' allowances scheme for the next financial year and also on proposed changes in the arrangements for convening Independent Remuneration Panels.

The Independent Remuneration Panel has considered the number and level of allowances payable to Members and its report is attached as Appendix 1. The Panel recommended that no changes be proposed to the scheme for 2018/2019.

In addition, with regard to the membership of the Panel, Cabinet will consider a proposal that in future there be a pool from which Panel members may be drawn, in order to assist with succession planning and continuity, whilst also having the benefit of bringing a fresh perspective to bear.

Cabinet's recommendations, on the members' allowances scheme for the next financial year and also in respect of the proposed changes in the arrangements for convening Panels, will be reported to the Council meeting.

CABINET**21 MARCH 2018****PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018-19****Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To recommend that Cabinet approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 21st March 2018, the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 21st March 2018, the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement, to be updated, approved by full Council and published annually on the authority's website. The council has complied with the requirement each year since March 2012. The policy needs to be updated, approved by Cabinet and Council at their meetings on 21st March and published by 31st March 2018; it is attached as an Appendix. The 2017-18 Pay Policy is currently published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at:
<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/pay-policy>
- 3.2 There are other, related requirements which are set out here for background information. On 3rd October 2014 the Government issued a revised Local Government Transparency Code. This came into force on 31st October 2014 under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. As part of the Code, local authorities are now required to publish certain data sets. The HR implications of the mandatory information are the annual publication of:
- An **Organisation chart** covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade).
 - Annual publication of **Trade union facility time** (including total number and full time equivalent of staff who are union representatives, and the total number and full time equivalent of union representatives who devote at least 50% of their time to union activity.)

- Senior salaries.
- Pay multiple – the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority's workforce. (Previously we were required to publish the ratio between the highest to lowest pay).

The information was published within the required deadlines, i.e.:

- On the first occasion, not later than 2nd February 2015, and
- Thereafter, not less than annually and not later than one month after the year to which the data and information is applicable.

These data sets are published on the council's website under Transparency, alongside the Senior Pay information. and can be accessed at:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk>, or by clicking [Transparency](#)

- 3.4 In preparing the Pay Policy Statement for approval and publication, the council must have regard to the guidance and supplementary guidance issued by the (former) DCLG:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85886/Final_Supplementary_Pay_Accountability_Guidance_20_Feb.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5956/2091042.pdf

- 3.5 From 2018 new requirement on Gender Pay Gap reporting apply to organisations with 250+ employees, under new Regulations made in 2017 under the umbrella of the Equality Act 2010. A separate report will be presented to Cabinet about this.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The proposed draft Pay Policy Statement 2018-2019 is attached as an Appendix to this report. The amendments in comparison with the 2017-18 Pay Policy Statement are: changes to dates; an national increase in JNC pay rates; and changes which reflect the transfer out of employees to Together for Children on 1st April 2017 and the recruitment of employees into posts that were vacant at the time of the last report.

5. Reason for Decision

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement.

6. Alternative Options

6.1 There are no alternative options recommended.

7. Background Papers

Sunderland City Council

Pay Policy Statement 2018-19

Summary of Contents

1. Introduction
 - 1.1 Aims and Purpose
 - 1.2 Not in scope
 - 1.3 Other legislation relating to pay and remuneration.
 - 1.4 Context
2. Pay Structure & general principles regarding remuneration of all staff
 - 2.1 Pay Structure
 - 2.2 Pay Awards
 - 2.3 Grading of posts
 - 2.4 Appointment to new and existing posts
 - 2.5 Market Pay
 - 2.6 Temporary Pay Supplements.
3. Senior Management Information
 - 3.1 Definition
 - 3.2 Key Principles
 - 3.3 Individual elements of the remuneration package
4. Lowest paid Employee Information
 - 4.1 Definition
5. Pay relationship between Chief Officers, lowest paid employees and the wider workforce
 - 5.1 Pay ratio - Pay multiple
 - 5.2 Pension Contributions
 - 5.3 Pay policy decisions for the wider workforce
6. The Approach towards Payment for those Officers Ceasing to Hold Office Under or be Employed by the Authority

1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 Aims and Purpose

This document sets out the Council's pay policy for 20118-19 aimed at supporting the remuneration of the workforce in a fair and transparent way. This Pay Policy Statement has been produced having regard to Government Guidance issued under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The policy is subject to annual review and must be approved by full Council for each financial year from 2012-13 onwards. It will be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after approval or amendment.

It sets out:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of remuneration of the Council's most senior staff, i.e. 'chief officers' as defined by the relevant legislation.
- The remuneration of the lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of employees who are not Chief Officers.

The Local Government Transparency Code 2014, published by the Government and which came into force on 31st October 2014 under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, builds on the requirement for local authorities in creating greater transparency through the publication of public data. This includes publishing details of senior employee salaries, including a list of responsibilities, the inclusion of bonus details for all senior employees whose salary exceeds £50,000 and publication of the data on the authority's website. In line with this Code, the pay multiple in this Pay Policy now measures the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

These related data sets are published annually, including:

- An Organisation chart covering the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade). [Link to - Organisation Chart](#)
- Senior Salaries – Senior employees (remuneration in the previous financial year, and Responsibilities). [Link to - Senior Salaries](#)
- Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the council's workforce). [Link to - Pay Multiple](#)

Further information on senior pay is also published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk> and search for Senior Pay, or Website URL:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4773>

1.2 Not in Scope

The arrangements set out within this document do not extend to those employees who are employed within the control of school governing bodies.

1.3 Other legislation relevant to pay and remuneration

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit, subject to Section 41 of the Localism Act 2011 (requirement for determinations relating to terms and conditions of chief officers to comply with the pay policy statement.)

In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations. There is also significant legislation relating to pensions and payments upon termination of employment.

Sunderland City Council is an equal opportunity employer. The overall aim of our Single Equality Scheme is to ensure that people are treated fairly and with respect. The scheme also contains a specific objective to be a diverse organisation which includes recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and promoting equality and diversity through working practices. This pay policy forms part of our policies to promote equality in pay practices. By ensuring transparency of senior pay and the relationship with pay of other employees, it will help ensure a fair approach which meets our equality objectives.

1.4 Context

In setting the pay policy arrangements for the workforce the Council seeks to pay appropriate salaries within the constraints of a public sector organisation.

The pay policy is simply one aspect of the Council's whole approach to managing its human resources within the context of the Council's objectives and values.

2. Pay Structure and general principles regarding the remuneration of all staff

2.1 Pay Structure

The Council operates a graded salary structure of incremental salary scales with a range of spinal column points (pay points), using the nationally negotiated pay spines as the basis for its local pay structures, together with some locally determined rates.

The large majority of the Council's (non-teaching) workforce are covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay spine (spinal column points 13-49), plus some additional local spinal column points (50-58). Other appropriate nationally agreed spines apply to smaller defined groups of employees, such as employees covered by the Soulbury Committee Agreement, and the Joint National Council for Chief Officers (JNC).

The salary figures in this report are gross salary figures before deductions, such as salary sacrifice, are made at the discretion of the employee.

2.2 Pay Awards

National and Provincial Agreements for the Council's workforce include the negotiation of collective agreements on pay and conditions, which are reviewed and negotiated annually, through agreements of the relevant national bodies such as the National Employers' Organisation for Local Government Services, on behalf of all local authorities in England and Wales, and the signatory Trade Unions. The annual pay awards, if any, take account of a number of issues, including central government guidance, what can be agreed with the relevant trade unions, the general economic situation, the results of consultation, the affordability position of local authorities, the average rate of pay settlements across the economy, the employee relations climate, etc. While the Council as an Employer is consulted as part of the negotiation process, it does not control the level of any national pay award.

2.3 Grading of posts

The grading of posts is approved by either the Council, following the consideration of recommendations from the Council's HR Committee or under delegated powers by the Head of HR & OD. During 2016 all posts in the council were subject to a grading review following which the grades of all posts are determined using a job evaluation approach called job family modelling.

2.4 Appointment to new and existing posts

Appointments are made in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice on Recruitment and Selection. For posts graded on incremental scales, appointments are normally made at the minimum of the salary grade, with employees progressing to the maximum point of the salary range via annual incremental progression where applicable, subject to relevant criteria being met. While provision exists to appoint above the minimum of the grade, this is applied in exceptional circumstances only. The equality impact of the decision is a key issue, and it is imperative that anomalies are not created as a result of such decisions. In cases where the criteria to appoint above the minimum of the grade is met, comprehensive records need to be maintained and monitored on an on-going basis, for use in assessing recruitment and retention trends and for monitoring purposes.

2.5 Market Pay Supplements

From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate.

2.6 Temporary pay supplements

Where employees temporarily undertake either the full range of duties of a higher graded post or a proportion of the duties of that post, a commensurate salary may be paid.

3. Senior Management Information

3.1 Definition of Senior Management

For the purposes of this statement, senior management means 'chief officers' as defined within the Localism Act.

Specifically:

- "2 (a) The head of its paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
(b) its monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
(c) a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
(d) a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
(e) a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act."

3.2 Key Principles

- i) The Chief Officer pay policy is designed to be easily understood and be transparent to the post holders, key stakeholders and the public. The structure and level of the pay arrangements is designed to enable the Council to attract, motivate, and retain key senior talent for the authority.
- ii) The policy is based upon salaries with clear differentials between levels of work/job size, within a range that is affordable now, will remain so for the medium term, and will be subject to review to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose. It is intended that the authority will market test the rates of pay when vacancies arise, as part of consideration on whether or not roles continue to be required within the context of the Council's priorities and commitments at that time.
- iii) These posts do not attract performance related pay, bonuses or any other additions to basic salary. This approach enables the Council to assess and budget accurately in advance for the total senior pay bill over a number of years.
- iv) In setting the pay policy for senior staff, a market position has been established that aims to attract and retain the best talent available at a senior level within a national recruitment context, to lead and motivate the Council's workforce that is rewarded under a nationally agreed negotiating framework.
- v) The remuneration for roles at this level has been set following independent advice from external consultants, Robertson HR Consulting.
- vi) Other terms and conditions of employment for this group are as defined within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities Conditions of Service handbook, with discretion to set actual pay levels at a local level, but within a national negotiating framework. These national provisions are supplemented by the Council's local employment policies. Like all council employees, holders of these posts are eligible to join the nationally defined Local Government Pension Scheme.

3.3 Individual elements of the remuneration package:

- a) Chief Executive
The current salary of the post is £179,231.

b) Executive Directors

The current salary of these posts fall within a range called Leadership 3 of £101,269, rising to a maximum of £120,186 plus a market supplement to give a spot salary of £131,300 for the current posts: Executive Director of People Services; Executive Director of Corporate Services (section 151 Officer); Executive Director of Children's Services (Chief Executive of Together for Children) (currently vacant), and £140,000 for the Executive Director of Economy and Place.

c) Corporate Directors and Chief Operating Officers

The current salary of these posts fall within a range called Leadership 4 of £89,277- £101,269. The current posts are Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation and Chief Operating Officer (PLACE),

d) The designated Monitoring Officer, which is the Head of Law and Governance, is paid within a range of £78,935- £89,277.

e) Heads of Service and other officers reporting directly to one of the statutory or non-statutory chief officers listed in (b), (c) and (d) above. The current salaries of these posts fall within three different ranges: Leadership 5 (££78,935 - £89,277); Leadership 6 (£67,748 - £78,935); Leadership 7 (£56,910 - £67,748).

The designated Returning Officer for the Council, who is currently the Chief Executive, also carries out the role of Acting Returning Officer at UK parliamentary elections and local returning/counting officer at European elections and at other referenda or electoral processes that occur from time to time. These additional roles usually carry an entitlement to payment from central government budgets at levels set by order in relation to each poll. The payment scales for national elections are set out in a Statutory Instrument laid before Parliament in respect of each individual election and are applied to both national and local elections. The Statutory Instruments are published on www.legislation.gov.uk

4. Lowest Paid Employee Information

4.1 Definition of Lowest paid employees

Those staff who are employed in jobs which are paid at Grade 1, spinal column point 13 (£16,491per annum for a full time 37 hour week), this being the lowest salary paid to employees other than apprentices, in line with the council's decision to comply with the recommended minimum hourly rate of the Living Wage Foundation. The salaries attributable to apprentices depend on age and are those set out within the National Minimum Wage legislation. Given the specific nature of

these appointments, the Council does not include apprentices within the definition of lowest paid employees for the purposes of this policy statement.

5. The relationship between the highest and lowest paid employees

5.1 Pay Multiples

In setting the relevant pay levels a range of background factors were taken into consideration for senior pay alongside the significant scope and scale of the authority in the national context.

For example, the scope and scale of the Chief Executive's post encompasses responsibilities commensurate with a large city authority, including responsibility for:

- The provision of wide ranging services to 277,962 residents of Sunderland.
- An overall budget of £632.9 million for service commissioning and delivery.
- Undertaking the role of the Head of Paid Service to 4518 employees. (* Figures include maintained schools. This data is accurate at 1st January 2018 but changes on a week by week basis).
- Lead Policy Advisor to the Council's 75 Elected Members.

One way of measuring pay relationships is to use a pay multiple. The ratio between the pay of the Chief Executive in Sunderland City Council and the lowest paid workers is 10.86:1 This meets the Government expectation that the pay multiple relationship should be below 20:1 in local government.

5.2 Pension Contributions

During 2017-18 the employer will contribute 17.8% of pensionable pay to the pension fund for all employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Employees also pay a contribution of between 5.5% and 12.5%. These figures are all determined by the Scheme, not the council.

5.3 Pay Policy Decisions for the Wider Workforce

These are determined by the Council, following consideration of recommendations of the Council's HR Committee which is composed of elected members. This ensures that decisions in relation to workforce pay are taken by those who are directly accountable to local people.

6. The approach towards payment of those officers ceasing to hold office under or be employed by the Authority

Policies regarding payments to Chief Officers upon termination of their employment are determined by the Council's HR Committee. Decisions are made in line with the Council's policies which apply to all employees.

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES
SCHEME - 2018/2019****Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Law and
Governance****1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the level of members' allowances for the next financial year, in order for Cabinet to make appropriate recommendations to Council and also to propose changes in the arrangements for convening Panels.

2. Description of decision

- 2.1 To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council.
- 2.2 To authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance, to appoint a pool of up to six individuals from whom an Independent Remuneration Panel of no less than three members may be drawn and to take all necessary action to appoint Panels and facilitate reviews of the members' allowances scheme.

3. Independent Remuneration Panel

- 3.1 Each Local Authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council about the allowances to be paid to elected members. The members of the Panel are John Anderson CBE, John Cuthbert and Karen Straughair.
- 3.2 The Council is required to renew the Members' Allowances Scheme for each financial year and to do so before the beginning of each new year. When making or amending a Scheme, the Council is required to have regard to the Panel's recommendations.
- 3.3 The Panel has considered the number and level of allowances payable to Members and its report is attached as Appendix 1. No changes are proposed to the scheme for 2018/2019.
- 3.4 In addition, with regard to the membership of the Panel, it is proposed that in future there be a pool from which Panel members may be drawn, in order to assist with succession planning and continuity, whilst also having the benefit of bringing a fresh perspective to bear. This will also help to address instances where existing Panel members may be unavailable.

3.5 Whilst it is proposed that the existing members of the Panel may continue to serve if they so wish, the Executive Director of Corporate Services, together with the Head of Law and Governance, will advertise for interested persons and will appoint a pool of up to six individuals, from which Panels of no less than three will be drawn. As well as advertising the role of Panel member, organisations in the third sector and business community may be invited to propose candidates for consideration.

3.6 It is important that an individual appointed to the “pool” is independent from the Council and seen to be so. For example, they should not be an active member of a political party, a relative or personal friend of a member of the Council, or be in dispute with the Council.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

4.2 There are benefits in providing for a pool of individuals from which an Independent Remuneration Panel may be drawn, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2018/2019 as this is a statutory requirement.

5.2 The alternative option to appointing a pool from which Panels may be drawn is to continue with the existing arrangement, however this would not secure the benefits referred to in paragraph 3 of the report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The proposal is to make no changes to the Member Allowances scheme for 2018/2019. The cost of the current scheme can be contained within the budget provision for 2018/2019.

Background papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Members' Allowances Scheme

Independent Remuneration Panel

Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme: Recommendations for 2018/2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each Local Authority is required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to Council about the allowances to be paid to elected members in the following financial year. This report sets out the Panel's recommendations for the year 2018/2019.

2. Review of Allowances

- 2.1 In undertaking this review, the Panel has had regard to guidance issued by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It has considered representations received from a number of elected members and has also considered the allowances paid by other authorities in the region.

The representations received are summarised below.

- 2.2 The view was expressed that the level of remuneration should remain the same, there should be no increase in the budget / total amount spent on members' allowances. It was also stated that evidence should be presented to the panel as to the work members do to claim the allowances. A number of members commented on the number and level of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs), with one representation stating that over 80% of councillors receive an SRA.

It was suggested that the Panel may wish to review some SRAs and consider whether they could be removed or reduced and the monies reallocated to the basic allowance.

- 2.3 There were also two separate "packages" of proposals put forward, namely:

- 2.3.1. there should be an across the board reduction in councillors' allowances to save £250,000 per annum, a significant reduction in the number of SRAs to no more than 25, the complete removal of allowances to deputy cabinet members and committee chairs, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor allowances should be scrapped entirely in favour of having an elected chair-person and travel and subsistence expenses should be removed, except where they relate to trips outside of the Sunderland area.

- 2.3.2 eliminate the post of policy assistant (Deputy Cabinet Member), reduce SRAs of all group leader, deputy, Cabinet, Leader and Deputy by 25%, reduce all committee SRAs by 50%, reduce Mayoral SRA by 50%, no changes to other SRAs or the basic allowance.

There should be one planning and highways committee rather than three to save time and resources – note regular lack of business.

- 2.4 The Panel has considered the representations received. The Panel has undertaken a number of reviews in recent years as part of which it has received information regarding the responsibilities associated with various roles within the Council's executive and committee structure and has met with a number of elected members. While it notes that under the Scheme for 2017/2018, 75% of members received an SRA, this reflects the Panel's recommendations in respect of the Scheme, which have consistently been accepted by the Council. Awarding an allowance to deputy cabinet members and committee chairs is not unusual and Sunderland Council is not out of step with other authorities in this regard.
- 2.5 The Panel is pleased to note that, as it had previously recommended, a report regarding the work of deputy cabinet members has been provided to Council, together with the annual Scrutiny and Areas Report.
- 2.6 With regard to the representation received regarding the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, it is not for the Panel to recommend that this arrangement is changed and indeed the Panel is advised by officers that under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must elect a chairman at its annual meeting and at authorities such as Sunderland, the chairman is titled Mayor and the vice chairman is Deputy Mayor.
- 2.7 Whilst the decision on the allowance to be paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is not one regarding which the Panel is required to be consulted, the practice at Sunderland has been to seek the Panel's views on this. The Panel remains of the view that it is appropriate for an allowance to be paid in respect of these roles, which involve time, effort and the incurring of expense associated with carrying out the functions.
- 2.8 With regard to the proposal in respect of the planning and highways committee, it is not for the Panel to recommend any changes in the Council's committee structure, however, should the Council decide to implement any changes, the Panel will be pleased to re-evaluate roles and responsibilities or to reassess existing roles.
- 2.9 The Panel does not recommend that the cost of travel or subsistence should be reduced or removed as it does not wish these costs to discourage individuals from seeking election as a councillor. Payment of such expenses is a feature of the allowances schemes at other authorities in the Tyne and Wear region and indeed wider afield and while there may be some variations in the approach taken by different authorities, Sunderland's approach is not unusual.
- 2.10 While it is not the role of the Panel to make decisions on the level of budget allocated to allowances by the Council, on this occasion, there is no recommendation to increase any of the allowances.

- 2.11 The Panel recommends that in respect of the year 2018/2019, no changes are made to the allowances scheme, save that the Carer's allowance is amended to align with the minimum national or living wage, as appropriate.
3. A summary of the main features of the scheme is attached to this report.

John Anderson CBE

John Cuthbert

Karen Straughair

March 2018

Appendix

Type of Allowance	Amount per annum £
Basic Allowance	8,369
Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader of the Council	37,667
Deputy Leader of the Council	25,111
Cabinet Secretary	25,111
Leader of Majority Party in Opposition	12,556
Leader of the Minority Party in Opposition	6,277
Deputy Leader of Majority Party in Opposition	8,369
Deputy Leader of the Minority Party in Opposition	4,184
Cabinet Member with Service Portfolio	20,716
Deputy Cabinet Member	12,556
Chairman of the following:	
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	12,556
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	5,179
Area Committee	10,350
Regulatory Committee	8,369
Licencing Committee	8,369
Planning and Highways Committee	6,277
Development Control Sub-Committees	6,277
Where the same person chairs the Licensing and Regulatory Committees, only one allowance will be payable but increased by a factor of 50%	
Vice Chairman of the following:	
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	2,590
Area Committee	6,277
Other Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Membership of Adoption and Permanency Placement Panel (to be paid to up to 2 Members)	4,184
Fostering Panel	4,184
Co-optees' Allowances	
Port Board	15,000
Audit and Governance Committee	
Chairman	6,277
Independent member	3,139
Mayoral	
Mayoral Allowance	17,205
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	5,735

Carer's allowance

Actual expenditure up to a maximum of the equivalent of the current National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage hourly rate, as appropriate, dependent upon the age of the worker. The rate applicable shall be subject to automatic increases in line with uprating of the Adult National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage.

Travel Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

Motor Cycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle Allowance	20p per mile
Car Allowance	45p per mile for first 10,000 mile and 25p thereafter

Passenger Supplement 5p per mile for the passenger (not exceeding 4)

The above rates match Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs authorised mileage rates and will be updated when HMRC publishes revised allowances

Subsistence Allowances (for elected members and co-optees)

In the case of absence from the usual place of residence for a continuous period which exceeds 4 hours but does not involve an overnight absence, subsistence is payable as per the table set out below:

Breakfast Allowance	£6.22
Lunch Allowance	£8.55
Tea Allowance	£3.37
Evening Meal Allowance	£10.59

The subsistence rates shall be reduced as shown below in respect of meals provided free of charge by any authority or body during the period to which the allowance relates.

Reduction of Subsistence Allowance for Meals Provided Free of charge:

Reduction for Breakfast provided	£6.22
Lunch provided	£8.55
Tea provided	£3.37
Dinner provided	£10.59

Overnight Accommodation

The allowance will not be claimable as an allowance as such, rather reasonable costs of an overnight stay (including breakfast) will be met for business class accommodation (3 star or 4 star) within and outside of London. Unless there are exceptional circumstances the Council will book the accommodation direct selecting the most economic option available and utilising the established procurement arrangements in place. Where exceptional circumstances exist, these will be approved in advance by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and reasonable costs will be reimbursed subject to submission of receipts.

Grant payable for Use of Rooms or Halls for Ward Surgeries	£15 maximum per occasion
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Telephone Calls Allowance	£15 per quarter
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Broadband – actual costs to be reimbursed up to a maximum of £15 per month with a contribution from each Member of £3 per month where private use is made for the facility.

Notice of Motion

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Members are asked to consider the under mentioned Motion:-

Local Government Financial Crisis

This Council notes with great concern that:

The National Audit Office has warned that many Councils' are on the verge of insolvency, due in large part to cuts in central government funding of almost 50% in eight years.

Figures released by the NAO show that Councils' financial positions have "worsened markedly" since the last audit in 2014, with 10% of councils likely to exhaust their reserves by 2020.

Therefore, this Council endorses, the call made by the Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter who has said: "The Government needs to urgently address this cliff-edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services."

This Council resolves to:

Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand that the Government take urgent action to prevent a further worsening of the finance position within local government.

Furthermore, that they make emergency funding available to Councils so that they can "urgently address the cliff edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services."

Councillor H. Trueman
Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor M. Speding
Councillor L. Farthing
Councillor G. Miller

Report

Update on Special Urgency Decisions**Report of the Leader**

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken as a matter of special urgency. The relevant provisions are now contained in Regulations 11 and 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

These are the special urgency provisions under which key decisions may be taken by the executive, although not contained in the 28 day Notice of Key decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or private), where compliance with Regulation 10 (the general exception) was also impracticable.

There have been no such instances since the last report.

Recommendation

That the Council notes the content of this report.

