

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor H Trueman) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Smith)

Councillors	Ali	Foster	Mann	Smith, P
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D
	Blackett	Gibson, P	McDonough	Snowdon, D E
	Burnicle	Gibson, P W L	McKeith	Speding
	Butler	Greener	Miller, F	Stewart
	Chequer	Hartnack	Miller, G	Taylor
	Crosby	Haswell	Morrissey	Thornton
	Dixon	Heron	Mullen	Trueman, D
	Dodds	Hodson	O'Brien	Tye
	Donaghy	Howe	Peacock	Walker, M
	Doyle	Johnston, K	Price	Walker, P
	Dunn	Johnston, S	Reed	Warne
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Rowntree	Williams
	Fagan	Laws	Samuels	Wood, A
	Farthing	Leadbitter	Scanlan	Wood, P
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N	Scott	

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bewick, Essl, D. MacKnight, McClennan, Nicholson, Noble, Potts, G. Smith, Wilson and Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Tate.

Minutes

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Constitution – Role and Function of the Mayor, Councillor Hodson asked that his objection be recorded against comments that had been made by the Deputy Mayor, regarding his colleague, at the meeting of the Council held on 26 January, 2022.

Accordingly, it was:-

- 50. RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 January 2022 and 26 January 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declaration of Interests

The following Councillors declared interests as follows:-

Cllr Blackburn	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Butler	Member of Unison
Cllr Chequer	Member of Unite and partner employed by Everyone Active
Cllr Doyle	Governor at Fulwell Junior School and employer provides consultancy on the Sunnyside Regeneration project
Cllr Farthing	Member of Unison
Cllr Fletcher	Member of Unison
Cllr P.W.L. Gibson	Member of N.A.S.U.W.T.
Cllr Heron	Council appointed representative to the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund
Cllr K. Johnston	Member of Unite and employed by Everyone Active
Cllr S. Johnston	Father is an Allotment Holder at Shields Road
Cllr Lauchlan	Member of Unite and Branch Secretary at Durham University and Chairman of the NE Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Committee for Education
Cllr Laws	Member of Unite
Cllr N. MacKnight	Member of Unison
Cllr Mason-Gage	Member of Unite and Union Representative
Cllr McKeith	Allotment Holder at High Southwick
Cllr F. Miller	Member of Unite and Union Representative
Cllr G. Miller	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Price	Council appointed representative on the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund

Cllr Rowntree	Member of Unison
Cllr Samuels	Member Unite and a Member of the Community Union.
Cllr A. Smith	Member of Unison
Cllr P. Smith	Member of G.M.B. and received donation for the 2021 Election Campaign
Cllr D.E. Snowden	Member of Unison
Cllr Speding	Member of G.M.B., Member of the Football Association and Chairman of the Durham County Football Association
Cllr Stewart	Member of Unison, Chairman of Governors of Willow Wood Primary School, Chairman of Bishopwearmouth Co-operative and Allotment Holder at Fulwell Allotments
Cllr Taylor	Member of Unite
Cllr Thornton	Allotment Holder at Hetton-Le-Hole
Cllr M. Walker	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr P. Walker	Member of Unison and Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme

In addition, during the course of the debate on the Conservative group amendment, Councillor Peter Gibson stated that he and Councillor E. Gibson live on Vicarage Close.

Announcements

Former Councillor Florence Anderson

It was with sadness that the Mayor referred Council to the recent death of Former Councillor Florence Anderson

Former Councillor Anderson was first elected in May 1991 for the Hetton ward and served on the Council until May 2016, serving as Deputy Leader of the Council from 2008 to 2010. Councillor Anderson served on many Council Committees including Cabinet and various Sub-Committees and was an active Ward Member who was involved with a number of local organisations.

People of Ukraine

The Mayor advised Council that he would be writing to the Mayor of Kyiv to express the city's solidarity with the people of his nation who were in our thoughts at this time.

The Mayor invited Council to join him in a moment's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague and as a mark of respect for lives lost in the Ukrainian conflict.

Report of the Cabinet

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 14 October 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 –2025/2026 report which was referred from the October Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted the budgetary information provided including the Medium-Term Financial Plan, Budget Planning Framework and Capital Strategy. The Committee acknowledges the current financial situation of the Council, including the spending pressures that exist.

The Committee also recognised the importance of robust budget consultation and engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that there was a clear understanding not only of the challenges and pressures that face the local authority, but also how resources were prioritised and assigned.

Finally, the Committee thanked officers and members for their continued work. The Committee would also continue to receive budgetary information and the opportunity to scrutinise these reports.

- On 9 December 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the report and recognised the continuing budget pressures that the Council faces. The Committee also acknowledged that a number of funding uncertainties remained as well as the continued impact, on a number of budget areas, from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee was satisfied that it would continue to receive updates on the budget including the outcome from the budget consultation process.

Finally, the Committee thanked Members and Officers for their continued efforts in developing a balanced budget in these difficult times.

- On 10 February 2022, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered Budget and Service Reports on Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2021/2022, Capital Programme 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2022/2023, including Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium-term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 reports which were referred from the February Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the financial information presented in the various reports. The Committee noted the ambitious capital programme as presented.

The Committee also recognised that there remain considerable financial pressures on the Council and its services and therefore noted the recommended Council Tax increase for 2022/23, which still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the budget consultation, noting the low level of responses from the public and that officers look to improve this response rate during future consultations.

The Committee also noted the comments that alternative group budgets would be tabled at the Council's budget setting meeting.

Finally, the Committee thanked Officers and Members for their continued efforts in developing these detailed budget reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders and had no further comments to make.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- On 9 December 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 and Capital Strategy report which was referred from the November Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had considered the capital resources and commitments as well as the additional project proposals and was satisfied with the report and had no further comment to make.

That they had also submitted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and prudential indicators within the attached report numbered 1 to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee:-

- On 4 February 2022, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023.

The Committee noted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 and the Prudential Treasury Management Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026.

The Committee noted the Borrowing and Investment Strategies contained within the report and that the Council continued to follow and adhere to fundamental principles in relation to the prudent investment of treasury balances.

The Committee commented on the current position with regard to rising interest rates and were satisfied that the Authority was suitably prepared to address potential challenges in relation to future borrowing, capital and cash flow requirements.

The Committee noted their responsibility for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies and that they would continue to receive quarterly performance reports.

Subsequently

The precept figures had been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 8 February 2022:

- The precept figures of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCCN) would mean an increase of 6.95% in the precept level for 2022/2023;
- The precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFR) would mean an increase of 1.99% in the precept level for 2022/2023; and
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council would mean an increase of 0% in the precept level for 2022/2023.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2022/2023 reflected the above notified 2022/2023 precept levels in respect of all of the Precepting Authorities and the figures as reported remained unchanged.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 below entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026”, Appendix F had not been printed with the item, but the recommendation, which included all of the substantive content of the report, was set out in full at item 3 of the report.

1. Capital Programme 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2022/2023, including Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026

That they had considered the attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services on:

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/2023;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026; and

- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/2023.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/2023;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/2023.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026

That they had considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services which was at the following link [[Cabinet 8 February 2022](#)] on:

- (a) the overall revenue budget position for 2022/2023;
- (b) the projected reserves position as at 31st March 2022 and 31st March 2023 and advise on their sufficiency;
- (c) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2022/2023;
- (d) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2022/2023 to 2025/2026, and associated Council Efficiency strategy; and
- (e) any views received from residents, the local Business Sector, Trade Unions, Schools Forum, Change Council and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on the proposed budget.

The attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services to Council set out the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 as recommended by Cabinet.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2022/2023 set out at Appendix J;
- (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 including Efficiency Strategy as set out in Appendix G and the potential use of Capital Receipts Flexibility set out at section 9 of the report.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2022/2023

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2022/2023 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2022/2023, and advised 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 26 January 2022, 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 Hetton Town Council.

They therefore recommended to Council: -

- (i) to confirm the council tax requirement for the Council for 2022/2023 for its own purposes is £114,706,404 (excluding Parish precepts) and which represents a 2.99% increase in council tax for 2022/2023. It should be noted that this includes the additional ringfenced social care precept of 1%.
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 26th January 2022 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
 - a) 72,161 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) 4,052 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.
- (iii) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - a) £764,880,417 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) £650,115,421 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- c) £114,764,996 being the amount by which the aggregate at (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) £1,590.4020 being the amount at (iii) (c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T ((ii) (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) £58,592 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 of the Act.
- f) £1,589.5900 being the amount at (iii) (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii) (e) above by the Item T ((ii) (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) £1,604.0500 being the amount given by adding to the amount at (iii) (f) above, the amount at (iii) (e) divided by the amount at (ii) (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) Charges relating to the Council

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,069.37	1,059.73
B	1,247.59	1,236.34
C	1,425.82	1,412.96
D	1,604.05	1,589.59
E	1,960.51	1,942.84
F	2,316.96	2,296.07
G	2,673.42	2,649.32
H	3,208.10	3,179.18

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii) (f) and (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 2022/2023, 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:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	102.56	58.23
B	119.65	67.94
C	136.75	77.64
D	153.84	87.35
E	188.03	106.76
F	222.21	126.17
G	256.40	145.58
H	307.68	174.70

- (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 2022/2023 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,230.16	1,220.52
B	1,435.18	1,423.93
C	1,640.21	1,627.35
D	1,845.24	1,830.78
E	2,255.30	2,237.63
F	2,665.34	2,644.45
G	3,075.40	3,051.30
H	3,690.48	3,661.56

- (vi) To determine that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/2023 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed council tax increase for 2022/2023 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.)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved the report of the Cabinet.

The following proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Conservative Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Mullen and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Revenue (Savings)

Cut Special Responsibility Allowances	£199,294
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge Deputy Leader and Cabinet Secretary roles, establish an Environmental Services Portfolio and move Transport into the Dynamic City brief • Reduce the Leader's SRA by £2,667 (leading to an automatic reduction in Majority Opposition Leader SRA) • Delete the Minority Opposition Leader's SRA • Delete the Deputy Cabinet Member posts • Reduce the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Chair SRA by £9,556 • Reduce the Thematic Scrutiny Chair SRAs – totalling £6,537 • Reduce the five Area Committee Chair SRAs – totalling £36,750 • Reduce the Licensing Committee Chair SRA by £5,369 • Reduce the Planning and Highways Chair SRAs – totalling £6,554 • Delete the SRAs for Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Co-ordinating, Licensing, and Area Committee - £41,846 • Reduce the Mayoral allowance by £7,500 and the Deputy Mayoral allowance by £6,000 • Delete the Adoptions Panel (£8,368) and Fostering Panel (£8,368) SRAs 	
Abolish councillors' expenses	£35,000
Trade union facility time reduction	£80,000
End Council funding to the Vibe Magazine	£20,000
Reduce the Events budget	£396,669
Reduce the Corporate Affairs and Comms budget	£400,000
Redirect part of the Business and Investment budget to a beautification scheme, including the £65,000 spent on Japan/America and international travel (as below)	£100,000
Re-allocate Neighbourhood Fund towards city-wide priorities (as below)	£539,076

Re-allocate part of the Carbon Reduction budget for tree and wildflower programme (as below)	£92,000
Re-allocate part of the Member Development Fund for Planning training (as below)	£3,000
TOTAL	£1,865,039

Revenue (Spending)

Reduction in Labour's Council Tax increase	£1,000,000
Introduce Park and Cemetery Wardens (x3)	£94,596
Tree-lined streets and wildflower planting programme	£92,000
Establish funding for residential areas when developments have a detrimental impact upon surrounding areas, initially sited at Vicarage Close for the duration of the Persimmon works	£30,000
Gully cleaning crew and fuel	£65,000
Free bin replacements when stolen, to be distributed via Area Committees and made available to all residents, not just those in receipt of LCTS as Labour's policy offers	£100,000
Introduce training for members of planning committees and achieve agreement among political groups that this will be a requirement of committee membership	£3,000
Introduce two trolley impound enforcement officers	£82,150
Remove the permit charge for second and third cars in CPMS schemes city-wide	£120,000
Retrofit public waste bins with smart sensors to eliminate overflowing	£100,000
Asset transfer of Southern Area Playing Fields to a trust established by Washington United FC	£5,549
Expand Council's arborist team (x2 senior arborists)	£70,244
Beautification programme to modernise and improve the visual and aesthetic appearance of shop fronts in Sunderland City Centre	£100,000
Expansion of CCTV monitoring capacity	£2,500
TOTAL	£1,865,039

Capital (Savings)

Reduction in the F Pit budget	£4,540,000
Re-allocate Open Spaces and Allotments Improvements budget (as below)	£40,000
Capital receipt from the sale of Roker Pods	£+
TOTAL	£4,580,000+

Capital (Spending)

Traffic light system at the Broadway roundabout	£2,000,000
Albany Park regeneration	£1,200,000
Gully cleaning vehicle	£164,000
Allocation from the Open Spaces and Allotments Improvement budget for new fencing at the Southern Area Playing Fields	£40,000
Trolley impound van	£60,000
Fund to replace Everyone Active equipment approaching end of use	£106,000
CCTV network around the Holiday Inn at Washington	£10,000
City-wide road resurfacing, pothole and pavement repair fund	£1,000,000
TOTAL	£4,580,000

Councillor Speding declared his interest in the amendment and left the meeting during its consideration, taking no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

The Conservative Group's proposed amendments to the Revenue and Capital Budgets were then put to the vote with 28 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Morrissey
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	Mullen
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	O'Brien
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Peacock
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Reed
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Haswell	McKeith	Wood, P.

36 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Rowntree	Taylor
	Butler	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Thornton
	Chequer	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Trueman, D.
	Dodds	Laws	Scott	Trueman, H.
	Farthing	MackKnight, N.	Smith, A.	Tye
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Stewart	Williams

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor Haswell.

The Amendment to the proposals was as follows: -

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget

2022/23 Revenue Budget Savings Proposals	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3, as outlined in proposal number 2	-100,000
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees, coterminous with parliamentary constituencies (giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs). Will also mean a reduction in the number of new Neighbourhood Boards as only 3 Vice Chairs to Chair them)	-33,254
Review and reduction of basic and special responsibility allowances (SRAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Deputy Cabinet Members Remove Vice Chair Scrutiny Coordinating Committee Reduction in SRAs of all other roles 15% Reduce Basic Allowance by 5% Roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be replaced by unpaid elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and allowances removed Reduce Councillors' expenses, food and drink provision, subsistence allowance and broadband and home phone allowances 	-235,114
Reduce Corporate Communications budget	-384,620
Remove budget for carbon reduction	-1,000,000
Reduce spending on existing tobacco control and alcohol denormalization programmes and refocus Council's spending towards	0

an assistance programme to be made available free of charge to city residents and small and medium-sized enterprises in City Council area. Scheme must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free counselling sessions • Life event support • Addiction support • Quitting and reduction advice • Healthy lifestyle support 	
TOTAL	-1,752,988

2022/23 Revenue Budget Priority Investments	£
Reduce Council Tax rise by 1%	1,113,000
Reverse the planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2022/23	2,500
Increased funding for disabled education support (Travel or IT)	100,000
Introduce a single free bulky item collection service for those in receipt of council tax support	160,000
Introduce a discretionary fund to allow for the increasing of lighting levels or installation of additional lighting for partially sighted residents as part of Health & Social Care budget	8,000
Introduce single free annual visitor parking permit in permit parking zones for carless households	50,000
Reverse the 2022/23 Brown Bin charge increase	15,000
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Resident Parking Permits	0
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Brown Bin service	0
Reinstate voluntary community sector contracts support for agencies supporting disabled and young people	65,000
Following the Environmental Services Staffing Review, allocate a further £157,660 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens)	157,660
Museum and Winter Gardens - increase budget for community arts participation.	81,828
TOTAL	1,752,988

Amendment 2 – Capital Budget

2022/23 Capital Budget Savings Proposals	£
CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of £10,660,000 from this budget	- 10,660,000
TOTAL	10,660,000

2022/23 Capital Budget Priority Investments	£
<p>Establish a working group to put together a 5-year Leisure Investment Strategy for Sunderland and Washington, with a budget to make improvements to public leisure space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an annual fund for maintenance and improvement of smaller suburban parks (£200,000 per year for 5 years) • Enhancing the existing Cycle Way investment scheme – including breaking ground on a keynote route linking the Riverside development with a Hylton Road cycleway to Pennywell Industrial Estate • Establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton, and Washington • Acquiring and/or developing a city centre skatepark and investigating providing further skatepark facilities at sites around the City Council area • Feasibility study for the acquisition and/or development of a motocross track • Budget for strategic working group (£30,000) 	10,000,000
Establishment of a working group and feasibility study to be carried out on derelict and problem garages in residential areas	30,000
Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford/Pennywell area	30,000
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill	500,000
Purchase of additional refuse vehicle to support free bulky item collection service	100,000
TOTAL reallocated from CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments	10,660,000

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats Group in Opposition was put to the vote with 27 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Mullen
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	O'Brien
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	Peacock
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Reed
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Wood, A.
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Haswell	Morrissey	

34 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Taylor
	Butler	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Thornton
	Dodds	Laws	Scott	Trueman, D.
	Farthing	MacKnight, N.	Smith, A.	Trueman, H.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P.	Tye
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, M.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.E.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Stewart	Warne
	Heron	Rowntree		

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The original motion that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted was then put to the vote with 33 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Johnston, K.	Rowntree	Stewart
	Butler	Lauchlan	Samuels	Thornton
	Dodds	Laws	Scanlan	Trueman, D.
	Farthing	MacKnight, N.	Scott	Trueman, H.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, A.	Tye
	Foster	Miller, F.	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Heron			

28 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Morrissey
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	Mullen
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	O'Brien
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Peacock
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Reed
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Haswell	McKeith	Wood, P.

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly it was: -

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

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Decision to Opt-In to the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments Managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

That the Audit and Governance Committee had given consideration to a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the invitation from Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to opt-in to the national sector-led arrangement for the appointment of external auditors for the period 2023/2024 to 2027/2028.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended Council to agree to become an opted-in authority to the national arrangement for the appointment of external auditors for the next appointing period.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved the report of the Cabinet.

52. RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Governance Committee be approved and adopted.

(Signed) **H TRUEMAN,**
 Mayor.