

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023 at 4.00pm

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

Councillors	Ali	Farthing	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D. E.
	Ayre	Fletcher	Miller, G.	Speding
	Bewick	Foster	Mordey	Stewart
	Blackburn	Gibson, P. W. L.	Morrissey	Thornton
	Bond	Gibson, P.	Mullen	Trueman, H.
	Burnicle	Greener	Nicholson	Tye
	Burrell	Guy	O' Brien	Usher
	Butler	Hartnack	Peacock	Vera
	Chequer	Haswell	Potts	Walker, M.
	Chisnall	Heron	Price	Walker, P.
	Crosby	Herron	Reed	Warne
	Curtis	Hodson	Samuels	Watson
	Dodds	Johnston, K.	Scanlan	Williams
	Donaghy	Johnston, S.	Scott	Wilson
	Doyle	Laws	Smith, G.	Wood, A.
	Dunn	Mann	Smith, P.	Wood, P.
	Edgeworth	McDonough	Snowdon, D.	

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Greenfield and Tate.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dixon, Fagan, Lauchlan, Mason-Gage and Rowntree together with Alderman Forbes.

Minutes

28. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 November 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements to make.

Citywide approach to Carbon Reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council

In the absence of the Deputy Leader, the Mayor invited the Cabinet Secretary to present an update to Council on the Citywide approach to carbon reduction.

The Cabinet Secretary provided an update regarding ongoing progress being made in relation to carbon neutral goals and reported that progress had been made across the priority areas set out in the Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan in the recent months.

The Cabinet Secretary advised that in terms of approach and data:-

- For the second year running, the Council had received a grade 'A' leadership status in relation to its submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Sunderland was one of 123 cities globally (and 1 of 19 in the UK) to receive this status in 2022, which reflected the city's commitment to delivering against ambitious targets and provided an opportunity to increase knowledge of Sunderland's relative strengths and weaknesses to continue to inform its action on climate change;
- The Council published its second Annual Carbon Report in November, covering the Council's emissions for the 2021/22 financial year as well as Sunderland's Citywide Emissions for the calendar year 2020 (the most recent year for which data had been published). The City Council's direct operations emitted 7,497.52 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalent in the 2021/22 financial year. This was a 12.4% reduction from the previous year (2020/21). City-wide, Sunderland emitted 1,039,057 tonnes of CO₂ in 2020. This was an 11.5% reduction from the previous year (2019).

The Cabinet Secretary advised that in terms of engagement:-

- Following the WWF We Love Cities public engagement campaign that Sunderland took part in throughout September and October, Sunderland City Council was invited to take part in one of WWF's virtual COP27 events. Councillor Graeme Miller spoke to delegates in the live-streamed hybrid event 'People Power for Cities' about how cities can use public engagement to achieve ambitious climate action, providing a virtual presentation focusing on the Council's work engaging with children and young people on sustainability;

- In November the Sunderland Climate Friendly Schools project was launched, during COP27 fortnight, at an event at City Hall to which all interested Sunderland schools were invited. Led by Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES), the project aimed to improve environmental literacy and to increase positive action to tackle climate change. Following the event, 15 primary, secondary and special schools from across Sunderland had been selected to take part in the project - ten in the Sunderland Climate Friendly Schools Pilot and five linked to the new Wear Sustainable Resources which would be developed to support all schools. In addition, all Sunderland Schools would be invited to take part in the new Sunderland Climate Friendly Schools Network which was being set up;
- On 3rd December the Low Carbon team attended the 'Upcycled Christmas' event at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. The free event gave visitors an opportunity to make low-cost upcycled Christmas decorations and was well attended, especially by families with children. The Low Carbon Team discussed recycling over Christmas with local residents and asked them to add a low carbon suggestion or pledge to a Christmas pledge tree;
- The young people's Environmental Green and Sustainable Group (known as EGS) held its sixth meeting on January 18th. The group focused on the issue of plastic pollution and litter at Sunderland's coast and rivers and spoke with representatives from the Coast Project and Seascapes. The group meeting would be followed up with young people representing the EGS Group at the January 2030 Shadow Board meeting and with a group litter picking session in March at Roker;
- And finally on engagement, as part of the Council's UK100 pledge, they submitted a bid to participate in the Low Carbon Engagement (LCE) programme. Sunderland was one of 21 local authorities selected across the two LCE programmes from 75 applications and one of only 5 authorities to be successful in securing in-depth project support. Sunderland's project was focusing on public engagement around sustainable travel behaviours. The project had provided training to approximately 20 Council and TfC colleagues from a range of service areas to date and the group were developing three areas of activity linked to increasing the take-up of cycling, redesigning and improving the home to school transport offer, and social prescribing.

The Cabinet Secretary went on to say that in terms of project delivery:-

- The BREEZ project, which supported small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) with energy efficiency measures, was now within its final 6 months of delivery. To date, £402,000 of grant funding had been committed or defrayed across 84 SMEs, with a further £120,000 of grant funding still available;
- Through the Warm Homes Fund, the City Council had already assisted 148 households with energy saving advice and welfare support and were now operational on the delivery against the target of 135 air source heat pumps to electrically heated properties by July 2024;

- A programme of work had been developed with BAI Communications and Nomad to accelerate decarbonisation of the Council's operational estate, following a successful Digital Catapult proof of concept project. 14 buildings had recently been identified for this programme and initial survey work had taken place;
- Work commissioned from a consultant to assist with the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure assessment and roadmap for Sunderland had recently been completed and an EV Delivery Plan was now being finalised. The roadmap took an evidence-based approach, drawing on the work of the consultants, taking into account existing charging infrastructure and opportunities for growth on a city-wide basis to support the needs of residents and key stakeholders. One early action in this Delivery Plan would be a city-wide feasibility exercise for EV Residential Community Hubs which was due for completion in March. The On-street Residential Charge-point Pilot Scheme had been completed with 2 chargers installed at each of the following locations: Market Street, Hetton; Harbour View, Roker; Morgan Street, Southwick; Ocean Road, Grangetown, and Aldenham Road, Lakeside Village;
- Linked to decarbonisation of transport, in terms of the Council's fleet, the EV Hub at Parsons Depot had now had 25 fast chargers and 5 rapid charging units installed prior to occupation. This would support phased decarbonisation of fleet based on operational requirements and the availability of appropriate technology;
- On micro-mobility, a new partnership had begun with Zwings as the new e-scooter provider for Sunderland. Zwings had initially deployed 100 e-scooters across the city and this number would increase during the year. The e-scooter trial was scheduled to run to May 2024;
- On 1st December, the Low Carbon Team worked with teachers and 90 pupils from St Anne's and St Cuthbert's RC Primary Schools and Broadway Junior School to plant 150 trees within their respective school grounds. The trees had been grown from acorns and horse chestnuts by a local resident in South Hylton who was keen to support environmental education as well as the Council's work on carbon reduction, and many of the school children responded by sending letters of thanks back to the local resident. Planting plans for a number of sites across the city as part of the commitment to the NE Community Forest were also currently being developed;
- The Council also now had the new recycling shop called 'Revive', which had opened at the Household Waste & Recycling Centre at Pallion, which was operating 7 days a week. All proceeds go to St Vincent's to help support the most vulnerable members of the local community;

- And finally, the Deputy Leader had just graduated from the UK100's first Climate Leadership Academy. This had provided an extremely valuable opportunity – as part of a cohort of 20 Elected Members leading on climate action from across the UK – to hear from a wide range of experts, to share knowledge (both of successes and challenges), and to take part in an extremely valuable and comprehensive programme of workshops and development sessions on everything from biodiversity and retrofit to green jobs. As the first North East local authority to be selected to take part in this Climate Leadership Academy, the Cabinet Secretary expressed his belief, that it will continue to provide a valuable forum as we all work together to achieve our ambitious goals – both as an organisation and across the city as a whole.

The Cabinet Secretary stated that he hoped that this provided a useful and positive update on work that was ongoing within the Council and with its partners and that updates would continue to be provided to Council as appropriate going forward. A number of questions were asked regarding aspects of the approach to carbon reduction, to which responses would be provided separately.

29. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Reception of Petitions

30. RESOLVED that the petitions listed below submitted by the Councillors named be received and referred to the appropriate Chief Officer for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme: -

Councillor McDonough – Petition asking the Council to install a safe crossing point on Silksworth Road in Herrington in the form of a pelican crossing or a zebra crossing.

Councillor McDonough – Petition asking the Council to call on Gentoo to work together to install more parking spaces around Lakeside Village and the towers.

Councillor Vera – Petition asking the Council for support for the application of a hot food takeaway for Cole Kitchen.

Councillor Edgeworth – Petition asking the City Council's Infrastructure Department to include the Hastings Hill subway under the A183/Chester Road in the list of subways that would be fully surveyed and assessed as part of the review of all subways within the City.

Councillor Farthing – Petition from Hope Shield Residence expressing concerns in relation to parking and security, fire and also a fence.

Written Questions by Members of the Public under Rule 10

Pursuant to Rule 10 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by members of the public.

Written Questions by Members of the Council under Rule 11

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by Members of the Council.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Council Tax Base 2023-2024

That at its meeting held on 19 January, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) regarding the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2023/2024 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2023/2024 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

(i) the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2023/2024 be approved; and

(ii) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2023/2024, shall be 73,619 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 4,185.

2. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That at its meeting held on 19 January, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) requesting that Cabinet consider, for the purposes of paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A to the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992, whether the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) – which is the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme under section 13A(2) LGFA 1992 – should be revised or replaced with another scheme for the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Accordingly, Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

(i) no changes were made to the current LCTSS, the main features of which were set out at Appendix A, for the City of Sunderland, except as required to incorporate any regulations laid down by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and

(ii) the approved LCTSS for the financial year 2023/2024 be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

3. Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme - 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

That at its meeting to be held on 19 January, Cabinet gave consideration to a joint report of the Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached) to present the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding:

- a proposed amendment, and backdating of the amendment, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/2023 and
- the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023/2024,

in order for Cabinet to make appropriate recommendations to Council. The Independent Remuneration Panel had considered the allowances currently paid to Members and its report was attached as Appendix 1.

Accordingly, Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) they note the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (ii) accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, other than its recommendation in respect of increasing the basic allowance, which Cabinet recommended should remain unchanged.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, moved the report of the Cabinet and the supplementary report.

Councillor Mullen, duly seconded by Councillor Doyle, moved the following amendment to Item 3 – The Members' Allowances Scheme:-

“To reject the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the increase of allowances set for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee to reflect the allowances set for Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the backdating of the allowances paid with regard to the Scheme for 2022/2023”.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with:-

30 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	McDonough	Vera
	Ayre	Edgeworth	Morrissey	Wood, A.
	Bewick	Gibson P. W.L	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Bond	Greener	Nicholson	
	Burnicle	Hartnack	O'Brien	
	Crosby	Haswell	Peacock	
	Curtis	Hodson	Potts	
	Donaghy	Johnston, S.	Reed	
	Doyle	Mann	Smith, G.	

And 39 members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor A. Smith)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Trueman)

Councillors	Blackburn	Guy	Scanlan	Usher
	Burrell	Heron	Scott	Walker, M.
	Butler	Herron	Smith, P.	Walker, P.
	Chequer	Johnston, K.	Snowdon, D.	Warne
	Chisnall	Laws	Snowdon, D. E.	Watson, S.
	Dodds	Miller, F.	Speding	Williams
	Farthing	Miller, G.	Stewart	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Thornton	
	Foster	Price	Trueman, H.	
	Gibson, P.	Samuels	Tye	

Accordingly it was:-

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

Action taken on petitions

The Council received and noted the report below which detailed the action taken in relation to the following petition which had been presented to the Council:-

(i) Petition asking the Council for engagement, guidance and support regarding youth provision in the ward of St Anne's

At the meeting of the Council on 16th November 2022, Councillor Pam Mann presented a petition asking the Council for engagement, guidance and support regarding youth provision in the ward of St Anne's.

The Director of Children's Services had considered the petition and provided the following response.

Working through and with partners the Council had taken a full role in planning and executing alternative youth provision for the local community in light of the sad demise of the previous service.

As the petition alludes to, the Church own the land that the PYP building was on and as a result of the lease arrangements that were in place, the building automatically belonged to the Church. We understand that the Church had plans for the building, which they hoped were inclusive and supportive of the community and built around the needs of that community. They were also working with the Council to become an additional warm space and their vision for food for the community, along with health, wellbeing and employment support was to be commended.

The All Together Consortium worked quickly to respond to the loss of the youth provision and were now delivering sessions for young people aged 10 – 19 years from the Pennywell Community Centre. Provision was available two nights a week from the centre and once a week through detached youth provision. The Council remained fully committed to playing its part in supporting the Church, Consortium and Together for Children, to identify vulnerable young people and offer appropriate support and engagement opportunities.

Councillor Mann had been advised of the above information.

32. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries

The Chief Executive reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) contacted the Council in July 2022 to indicate that it intended to carry out a review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements.

At its meeting in November 2022, Council considered the process to be adopted in relation to completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council size and agreed to establish a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group of Members (the Working Group), to assist with formulation of the submission document. The Council's submission must be delivered to the Commission by 28th February 2023 and it was originally proposed that a draft document would be presented to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for 25th January 2023, being the last scheduled meeting prior to the submission deadline. The process of obtaining and collating relevant information had however proved to be resource intensive and it had become apparent that additional time would be required in order to prepare a properly considered and reasoned document. The report therefore recommended to Council an amendment to the process agreed at its meeting in November 2022, namely that an extraordinary meeting be convened with regard to the completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council Size. Further reports to Council in relation to Ward arrangements would be submitted in due course at the appropriate time.

It was therefore proposed that an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council be convened on Wednesday 22 February 2023 to consider and approve the final draft of the Council Size submission document before its submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023 at the latest. It was proposed that this extra-ordinary meeting of the Council be held at 3.00pm before the Council Meeting already scheduled to be held on the same day at 4.00pm.

Council was recommended to:-

- (i) Note that:
 - a. the work that had been undertaken by the Boundary Review Working Group on developing the draft Council Size proposal document; and
 - b. the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal; and

- (ii) Agree to call an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council on 22 February 2023 at 3.00pm to consider and approve the draft Council Size proposal prior to its submission to the Commission by no later than 28 February 2023.

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

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Mullen, moved the following amendment:-

To delete “at 3.00pm” for the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council to be called on 22 February 2023

Upon it being unanimously agreed that an alternative time would be arranged, it was:-

33. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Council note:-
 - a. the work that had been undertaken by the Boundary Review Working Group on developing the draft Council Size proposal document; and
 - b. the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal; and
- (ii) An Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council would be called on 22 February 2023 to consider and approve the draft Council Size proposal prior to its submission to the Commission by no later than 28 February 2023.

Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency. There had been no such instances since the last report.

34. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report and supplementary report seeking approval to make a change in the Council's representation to the Key Cities Board, to note and endorse the appointment of Paul Wilson as Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer and to approve changes in membership to a number of committees and an outside body which had become necessary as a result of the resignation of Councillor Donaghy from the Conservative Group.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, moved the report and accordingly it was: -

35. RESOLVED that the Council: -

- (i) approve the appointment of the Leader of the Council to be the Member and the Deputy Leader of the Council to be a substitute on the Key Cities Board;
- (ii) note and endorse the appointment of Paul Wilson as Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer;
- (iii) approve the re-appointment of Councillor Donaghy to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee;
- (iv) approve the appointment of Councillor Mullen on the Appeals Panel in place of Councillor Donaghy;
- (v) approve the appointment of Councillor Mann on the Homelessness Appeals Panel in place of Councillor Donaghy; and
- (vi) approve the nomination of Councillor McDonough to replace Councillor Donaghy on the North East Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Motions on Notice

(i) Environmental Impact of Council Cars

Councillor Mullen, duly seconded by Councillor Doyle moved the following motion:-

"Council notes its commitment to the Conservative Group's 2019 motion declaring a climate emergency and reaffirms that commitment.

Following the cancellation of the Air Show for environmental reasons, Council resolves to take further steps towards net zero by reducing the use of Council-owned cars. Specifically:

- Within the next seven days, cease use of the Council's chauffeur-driven cars for the Mayor and the Executive, irrespective of leasing arrangements, encouraging use of public transport and active travel instead.
- End the delivery of Council agenda and meeting packs to councillors' home addresses and instead have them served in a digital format, as standard, unless members opt in to receive hard copies. When members do opt in, agenda and meeting packs will be deposited in members' respective Group Rooms, not delivered to their homes."

Upon being put to the vote the motion was defeated with 29 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Mann	Reed
	Ayre	Edgeworth	McDonough	Smith, G.
	Bond	Gibson, P.W.L.	Nicholson	Vera
	Burnicle	Greener	Morrissey	Wood, A.
	Crosby	Hartnack	Mullen	Wood. P.
	Curtis	Haswell	O'Brien	
	Donaghy	Hodson	Peacock	
	Doyle	Johnston, S.	Potts	

39 Members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor A. Smith)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Trueman)

Councillors	Blackburn	Guy	Scanlan	Usher
	Burrell	Heron	Scott	Walker, M.
	Butler	Herron	Smith, P.	Walker, P.
	Chequer	Johnston, K.	Snowdon, D.	Warne
	Chisnall	Laws	Snowdon, D. E.	Watson, S.
	Dodds	Miller, F.	Speding	Williams
	Farthing	Miller, G.	Stewart	Wilson
	Fletcher	Mordey	Thornton	
	Foster	Price	Trueman, H.	
	Gibson, P.	Samuels	Tye	

And 1 abstention:-

Councillor Bewick

Upon the motion being put, it was declared to be defeated and accordingly, it was:-

36. RESOLVED that the notice of motion be defeated.

(ii) Replacement Wheelie Bins

The notice of motion was withdrawn.

(iii) Addressing Discrimination of Cared for Children

Councillor Farthing, duly seconded by Councillor Price moved the following motion:-

“Councillors on both the Children Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have had drawn to their attention the discrimination that our cared for and care experienced children and young people experience on a regular basis.

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council therefore resolves to recognise that

- cared for and care experienced people are a defined group who face discrimination;
- the Council has a duty to put the needs of such people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- henceforth future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic.
- in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.

And henceforth this council will

- treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic and formally call upon all other bodies it partners or contracts with to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.”

Councillor P.W.L. Gibson duly seconded by Councillor Curtis, moved the following amendment:-

After the last bullet point add:

“The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to our local Members of Parliament requesting that they :

- (a) Either support or introduce legislation to amend the Equality Act (2010) to extend the list of protected characteristics to include children and young people leaving care;
- (b) Support the provision of a Universal Basic Income for young people leaving care to give them a helping hand in dealing with expenses such as accommodation and subsistence. This Council notes that such a system has been introduced by the Welsh Parliament on a trial basis.”

So that the amended motion would read:-

Councillors on both the Children Learning and Skills Scrutiny committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have had drawn to their attention the discrimination that our cared for and care experienced children and young people experience on a regular basis.

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council therefore resolves to recognise that

- cared for and care experienced people are a defined group who face discrimination;
- the Council has a duty to put the needs of such people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- henceforth future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic.
- in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.

And henceforth this council will

- treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic and formally call upon all other bodies it partners or contracts with to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.
- The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to our local Members of Parliament requesting that they :
 - (a) Either support or introduce legislation to amend the Equality Act (2010) to extend the list of protected characteristics to include children and young people leaving care;
 - (b) Support the provision of a Universal Basic Income for young people leaving care to give them a helping hand in dealing with expenses such as accommodation and subsistence. This Council notes that such a system has been introduced by the Welsh Parliament on a trial basis.

Upon being moved the amendment was declared to be carried unanimously.

The Mayor then put the new substantive motion to the meeting and accordingly it was: -

37. RESOLVED that:-

Councillors on both the Children Learning and Skills Scrutiny committee and the Corporate Parenting Board have had drawn to their attention the discrimination that our cared for and care experienced children and young people experience on a regular basis.

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council therefore resolves to recognise that

- cared for and care experienced people are a defined group who face discrimination;
- the Council has a duty to put the needs of such people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
- henceforth future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic.
- in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.

And henceforth this council will

- treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic and formally call upon all other bodies it partners or contracts with to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.
- The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to our local Members of Parliament requesting that they :
 - (a) Either support or introduce legislation to amend the Equality Act (2010) to extend the list of protected characteristics to include children and young people leaving care;
 - (b) Support the provision of a Universal Basic Income for young people leaving care to give them a helping hand in dealing with expenses such as accommodation and subsistence. This Council notes that such a system has been introduced by the Welsh Parliament on a trial basis.

The meeting adjourned at this point, having exceeded three hours' duration.

The Mayor then thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) A. SMITH,
Mayor.

