

CITY HALL,
SUNDERLAND.
13 JANUARY 2023.

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, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA** on **WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023** at **4.00 p.m.** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business:-

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | To read the Notice convening the meeting. | - |
| 2. | Apologies. | - |
| 3. | To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 16 November 2022 (copy attached). | 1 |
| 4. | Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any). | - |
| 5. | Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e). | - |
| 6. | Citywide approach to carbon reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council | - |
| 7. | Reception of Petitions. | - |
| 8. | Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 10. | - |

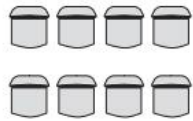
9.	Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 11.	-
10.	Report of the Cabinet (copy attached).	27
11.	To consider a report on action taken on petitions (copy attached).	57
12.	Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries – report of the Chief Executive (copy attached).	61
13.	To consider the following reports:-	71
	(i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached).	73
	(ii) Appointments – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	75
14.	To consider the attached Motions (copy attached).	77



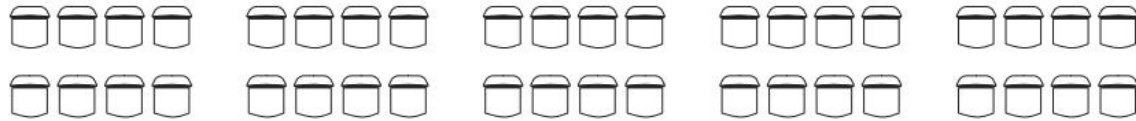
PATRICK MELIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

Note it is intended that the meeting will be livestreamed for the public to view on the Council's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/47wvRWwYc6w>

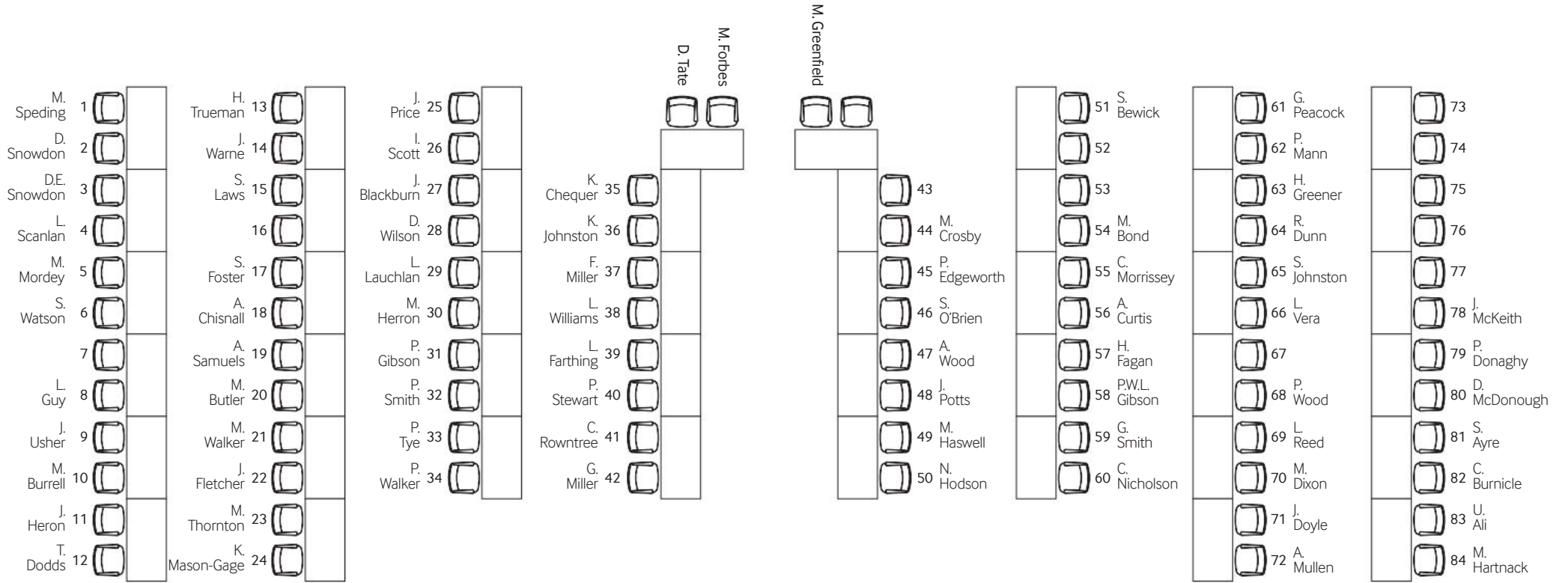
Chief Officer seating



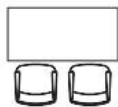
Press and Public Gallery



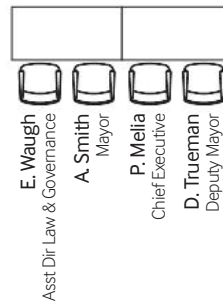
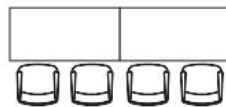
Honorary Aldermen



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Governance Services



Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022 at 4.00pm

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

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

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Greenfield and Tate.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Haswell, Potts and Thornton together with Aldermen Forbes.

Minutes

16. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 June 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declaration of Interests

Item 16.3 – Notice of Motion – Protecting Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Councillor Bewick made a DPI in the above item as an employee of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Announcements

(i) Former Councillors Gofton and Howe and the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

The Mayor advised that this had been the first opportunity the Council had to mourn the loss of former colleagues Councillors Gofton and Howe and of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She invited Members to observe a minute's silence to reflect on the collective loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and as a mark of respect to their former colleagues, Celia Gofton and George Howe.

(ii) Annual Housing Awards – Best Housing Regeneration or New Build Initiative

Councillor Kevin Johnston informed the meeting that Sunderland City Council had receive an award for Best Housing Regeneration or New Build Initiative for the development at Valiant Close which was the first Council new build development.

This was a fantastic achievement and recognition for all of the hard work of the housing development team.

Citywide approach to carbon reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader provided an update regarding ongoing progress being made in relation to carbon neutral goals. Work had continued to progress across priority areas set out in the Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan in recent months and the Deputy Leader advised of the following in terms of the approach and data:-

- The Council published its updated Low Carbon Action Plan in July 2022. The updated Action Plan builds upon the work carried out over the last 18 months to improve the knowledge and understanding of data in relation to low carbon issues, and the development of a co-ordinated approach to tackling this issue across the organisation. It set out a number of overarching objectives within each of the 7 strategic priority areas identified in the Low Carbon Framework, under which a series of individual actions would be taken forward.
- The Council disclosed its emissions in its second report to CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project) in July 2022; in 2021 Sunderland was 1 of 95 cities globally (and 1 of 11 in the UK) to receive a grade 'A' leadership status. Annual disclosure to CDP 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 climate action. The announcement was expected shortly.
- The Council was also currently finalising the second Low Carbon Annual Report.

In terms of engagement the Deputy Leader advised of the following:-

- The Sunderland 60 Legacy programme was delivered in June 2022 by Common Purpose, a non-profit organisation which delivered leadership programmes in over 200 cities globally. It brought together 18-25 year olds from a range of employers and education providers across the city – including a number of young Council employees - as part of an international leadership programme to work on how to make Sunderland a cleaner, greener city for generations to come. A follow-up event was held on 28th of September to discuss how the group ideas could be taken forward.
- The Environmental Green & Sustainable Group (known as EGS) had held its fourth and fifth meetings. They focused on Sunderland's greenspaces and nature and spoke with members of the Low Carbon Team and Durham Wildlife Trust in July, and in October they prepared a youth response to the We Love Cities campaign and were also helping to shape Sunderland's food and nutrition charter mark (silver and gold levels). Young people represented the EGS Group at both the July and October 2030 Shadow Board meetings and joined representatives from schools across the city last week in City Hall when the new Climate Friendly Schools programme was launched.
- Over the summer period the Low Carbon team took part in a range of engagement events to raise awareness in communities across the city around low carbon, sustainable behaviours, Sunderland's newly launched Refill scheme, and active travel. These included Together for Children's Health and Happiness week with events at Thompson Park, Hudson Road, Farrington Academy, Hetton Lyons Country Park, Southwick Community Primary School and Princess Anne Park as well as an event for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Barnwell Academy.
- As one of the finalists from the WWF One City Challenge - following on from the CDP submission last year - the Council was invited to take part in the We Love Cities campaign. We Love Cities was a public engagement campaign that encouraged people across the world to express support for sustainable urban development by voting for their favourite shortlisted city, getting involved and posting improvement suggestions. The campaign ran for 6 weeks during September and October and provided a great opportunity to engage people across the city.

In terms of project delivery the Deputy Leader advised that:-

- Delivery had continued with the scheme – known as BREEZ - currently in place to support small and medium sized businesses with energy efficiency measures that will run until June 2023.
- Delivery of the LAD2 project (known as HEET) was completed on 30th September 2022. This £2m project had been a Council managed, whole-house retrofit scheme, improving the energy rating of low-income, low efficiency households by installing insulation, solar panels and air source heat pumps into many of the 215 properties assisted. Several residents living in homes not connected to the mains gas grid were also helped, reducing fuel poverty and carbon emissions in the process.

- In addition, work had progressed in partnership with Gentoo to take forward the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund project, as well as early work on the new Warm Homes Fund project working with Groundwork's Green Doctors and Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Additional annual funding had been announced by the Government – through DEFRA - towards the North East Community Forest, which would support development of a collective Forest Plan and enable specialist support with project delivery. Further planting would take place in the city this Winter, building on more than 16,000 trees across 5 schemes planted in the city to date as part of the NE Community Forest.
- The Council had successfully been awarded £75,000 funding from DEFRA for Local Authority Treescaping Fund 2 (or LATF2). This would provide funding to plant 72 standard-sized trees to replace damaged or diseased trees in urban areas of the city.
- In terms of waste management, two Waste Education Officers and one Waste Enforcement Officer were being recruited to the Council to help ensure household waste was managed in more environmentally friendly ways. This was in addition to the 'no side waste policy' now adopted by the Council, meaning that additional bags placed next to the green household waste bins were no longer collected as part of the fortnightly service.
- Activity to continue to actively increase recycling rates across the city would also continue to be developed.
- EcoFest Sunderland was held on the first weekend in October – with the Council working in partnership with Climate Action North (based at the Business Innovation Centre), as well as the Business Improvement District (BID). It was held at the Museum and Winter Gardens and The Bridges. There were a range of family-friendly activities such as an ecofest trail, craft activities and the chance to make climate pledges as well as information stands on energy efficiency, active travel and local green activities. There was also a pop-up market in The Bridges with local and regional businesses selling a range of sustainable products.
- The Deputy Leader was working with a cohort of 20 Councillors from across the UK as part of the UK100's Climate Leadership Academy - providing opportunities to build and share knowledge and experience across local government in key policy areas including: Decarbonising Homes and Buildings; Decarbonising Transport; Financing the Transition; Nature & Adaptation, and Energy.

The Deputy Leader stated that she hoped this provided a useful and positive update on work that was ongoing within the Council and with its partners and that she would continue to provide updates to Council as appropriate going forward.

17. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Reception of Petitions

- 18. 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 Mann – Petition asking the Council for engagement, guidance and support regarding youth provision in the ward of St Anne's.

Councillor Bewick - Petition asking the Council to reopen the Pallion Shipyard.

Councillor Edgeworth - Petition asking the Council to work with Northumbria Police to crack down on nuisance motorbikes and make streets, parks and green spaces safe for local people.

Councillor Foster - Petition asking the Council to install a car park at Castletown Shops.

Councillor Hartnack - Petition requesting the stopping of sewage pollution at Whitburn.

Councillor Nicholson – Petition asking the Council to resurface Forest Road

Councillor S Johnston - Petition asking the Council to reinstate the Sunderland International Airshow.

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. Honorary Freedom of the City

That at its meeting held on 14 October, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) recommending that the Council consider formally conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City upon

- Gary Bennett MBE

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement he sets in combatting racism in football and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people.

- Stephanie Darby MBE (Steph Houghton)

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she sets in women's sport and as a role model for young people in Sunderland.

- Jill Scott MBE

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she sets in women's sport and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people.

Accordingly. the Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972,

- Gary Bennett MBE
- Stephanie Darby MBE (Steph Houghton); and
- Jill Scott MBE

as persons of distinction who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City, be admitted to be Honorary Freemen of the City; and

- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

2. Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 – 2026/2027

That at its meeting held on 13 October, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Assistant Director of Finance which:

- Identified the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and set out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2023/2024;
- Set out the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/2024 to 2026/2027; and
- Set out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2023/2024.

- Sought a recommendation to Council for the approval of the updated Capital Strategy.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Council, approval is required for changes to the Council Capital Strategy and an extract from the report on the Capital Strategy Update – 2022/2023 is attached.

The report was also considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 13 October 2022.

The Cabinet noted the following comments of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee:-

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the report including the budget planning framework and updated capital strategy. The Committee also recognised the importance of budget consultation with key stakeholders and increased engagement with the public.

As in previous years there remained a number of uncertainties, pressures and challenges around the budget that the committee will continue to monitor through future budget reports.

The Scrutiny Committee had no further comment and accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council to approve the Council's Capital Strategy.

3. Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries

That at its meeting to be held on 10 November, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) advising that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) has contacted the Council to indicate that it intends to carry out a review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements. The previous review was undertaken in 2002, with the final recommendations being published in October 2003, and whole-Council elections taking place in 2004.

This report recommended to Council the process to be adopted in relation 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.

Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- i) it notes the commencement of the review of the overall composition of the Council and its Ward arrangements by the Commission;
- ii) the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal, in particular, be noted;

- iii) a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group be established of seven members of the Council (4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) to assist in the process of developing initially the Council Size Proposal document;
- iv) the terms of reference for the Boundary Review Working Group as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- v) the Chief Executive be authorised to draft the Council Size Proposal document in consultation with the Working Group and submit it for approval to the Council Meeting on 25 January 2023 prior to its submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023; and
- vi) it notes that further reports will be submitted to Council as the review by the Commission progresses to consider the Ward arrangements.

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

19. 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. Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/2022

That the Audit and Governance Committee have given consideration to a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2021/2022, demonstrating how they have fulfilled their responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends Council to note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/2022.

Councillor Stewart, duly seconded by Councillor P. Gibson, moved the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and accordingly it was: -

20. RESOLVED that the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/2022 be noted.

Report of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee

The Licensing and Regulatory Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Proposed Draft Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of City Development (copy attached) dated 25th July, 2022 seeking approval to the proposed Draft Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and arrangements for the formal consultation and subsequent approval of the final Draft Statement.

Whilst the arrangements for the formal consultation and subsequent approval of the final Draft Statement rests with the Committee, Council approval was sought in accordance with Paragraph 3.9 of the said report to amend the Terms of Reference of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Scheme of Delegation and Appointment of Proper Officers insofar as it relates to the Executive Director for City Development, in order for the same to be updated, including, amongst other things, express reference being made to the Committee having responsibility for the following matters:-

- (a) Determination of the licensing objectives that will form the basis of the Council's Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, with the licensing objectives being subject to regular reviews by the Committee as appropriate; and
- (b) Approval, review and amendment of the Council's Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended Council to approve the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Scheme of Delegation and Appointment of Proper Officers insofar as it relates to the Executive Director for City Development in order for the same to be updated as set out in Paragraph 3.9 of the report and to authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including the making of any consequential amendments.

Note: The Draft Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy referred to as appendix 1 of the report can be viewed online at:

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/10838/Committee/1966/Default.aspx>

Councillor Fletcher, duly seconded by Councillor M. Walker, moved the report of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and accordingly it was: -

21. RESOLVED that the report of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee be approved and adopted.

Report of the Hearing Sub Committee of the Standards Committee

The Hearing Sub Committee of the Standards Committee reported as follows:-

1. Complaint regarding Councillor Stephen O'Brien (Ref:14/18)

On 10 March 2022 the Hearing Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee held a hearing in respect of a complaint submitted to the Monitoring Officer in September 2018 by Councillor Antony Mullen, on behalf of the Sunderland Conservative Association Management Board. The complaint related to a series of remarks made by Councillor O'Brien on Twitter about the relationship between the Sunderland Council Conservative Group and the Labour Group, focussed on the interaction between the two groups' representatives on the Children, Education and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

An Assessment Sub-Committee referred this matter for investigation and the complaint was subsequently referred to Mr David Kitson of Bevan Brittan LLP, whose investigation focussed on whether there had been a potential breach of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members ('the Code'), which state:

- *You must treat others with respect, including Council officers and other elected Members.*
- *You must not bully any person (including specifically any Council employee) and you must not intimidate or improperly influence or attempt to intimidate or improperly influence any person who is involved in any complaint about any alleged breach of this Code of Conduct.*

Mr Kitson concluded that Councillor O'Brien had breached paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct and had not breached paragraph 2 of the Code. The matter was then referred to a Hearing Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee on 10 March 2022.

The Hearing Sub-Committee considered the report of Mr David Kitson and the views of the Council's Independent Person and:

- (a) accepted the findings of the Investigating Officer and determined that on the balance of probability, Councillor O'Brien had breached paragraph 1 of the Code of Conduct for Members
- (b) found that there had been no breach of paragraph 2 of the Code.

In accordance with the Council's Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints, the Hearing Sub-Committee reviewed the potential sanctions available to it, and determined to impose the following sanctions:

- Councillor O'Brien to be issued with a formal censure by the Hearing Sub-Committee;
- A recommendation that Councillor O'Brien issue a written apology (in a form approved by the Monitoring Officer) to former Councillor Bob Francis;
- Councillor O'Brien is recommended to delete the tweets that led to this complaint from his Twitter account;
- The Monitoring Officer is recommended to offer training to Councillor O'Brien on the appropriate use of social media by Members of the Council; and
- The Hearing Sub-Committee to refer its findings to full Council for information, at the soonest available opportunity.

Councillor O'Brien subsequently requested a review of the Hearing Sub-Committee's decision, and the matter was referred to the Independent Person for South Tyneside Council to undertake this review.

The Hearing Sub-Committee met again on 12 August 2022 to consider Councillor O'Brien's review request, with the benefit of the submissions received from South Tyneside Council's Independent Person. The Hearing Sub-Committee resolved to confirm its original decision, and the sanctions as set out above.

Accordingly, the Committee referred its findings in this matter to Council. A copy of the full Decision Notice relating to this complaint was attached at Appendix 1 to the report for information.

Councillor P. Gibson, duly seconded by Councillor Stewart, moved the report of the Hearing Sub Committee of the Standards Committee and accordingly it was: -

22. RESOLVED that the report of the Hearing Sub Committee of the Standards Committee be received and noted.

Action taken on petitions

The Council received and noted the report below which detailed the action taken in relation to the following petitions which had been presented to the Council.

(i) Petition - Requesting the examination of traffic calming measures between Dartington Close, Dellfield Drive and St John's Vale Pennywell

At the meeting of the Council on 26 January 2022, former Councillor Karen Noble presented a petition with 17 signatures requesting the examination of traffic calming measures between Dartington Close, Dellfield Drive and St John's Vale, Pennywell.

An officer review using the Council approved Road Safety Assessment Criteria, which considers traffic speed, accident data, road geometry and the like, was undertaken for each of the streets. The review noted that there were already traffic calming measures in place and that the threshold for further interventions had not been met therefore the request was declined.

The Ward Councillors and Lead petitioner had been advised of the outcome.

(ii) Petition – Broadstairs Court

At the meeting of the Council on 23rd March 2022, Councillor Pam Mann presented a petition with 30+ signatures requesting that the Council hear and take action upon their petition regarding parking issues and damage to highway and pavement and increased litter at Broadstairs Court and Broadway Properties.

The location identified is a residential street next to a shopping area with a shop, coffee shop, fast food shop and vets.

Objections were made during the planning stage to the development and residents and Councillors feel as though the restrictions set out in the planning stage are not being adhered to.

Colleagues in Highways Maintenance and Environmental Enforcement were consulted regarding the footway condition and the litter at this location and colleagues from Planning and Environmental Enforcement would respond to the Ward Councillors direct regarding the concerns raised in the petition.

Following consideration of the petition, it was agreed to partly uphold this petition as officers had liaised with Ward Councillors to address the issues and a 'no through' road sign is being implemented at this location.

The Ward Councillors and Lead petitioner had been advised of the outcome.

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.

23. 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 for a number of proposed changes to various committees and outside bodies which had arisen since the Annual Council meeting.

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

24. RESOLVED that the Council: -

- (i) approve the appointment of Councillor T. Dodds to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor D. Wilson;
- (ii) approve the nomination of the Deputy Leader and Clean, Green City Portfolio Holder, Councillor Rowntree, as the Leader of the Council's named alternative on ANEC Ltd;
- (iii) approve the nomination of Councillor Mann to replace Councillor Doyle on the NECA Audit and Standards Committee;
- (iv) approve the nomination of Councillor S. Johnston to replace Councillor Doyle on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) approve the nomination of Councillor Mann to replace Councillor Doyle on the North East Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (vi) approve the appointment of Councillor P. Donaghy to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor S. Johnston.

- (vii) in respect of Together for Children Limited to:-
- (a) approve the extensions to the NEID term of Ms Exley, Ms Hearne and Mr Mason to 31 March 2024: and
 - (b) note the commencement of a recruitment process for a new Chair for TfC and to receive a further report in due course regarding this proposed appointment.

Motions on Notice

(i) The Right to Play

Councillor Dunn, duly seconded by Councillor Mann moved the following motion:-

“This Council recognises the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities across the City of Sunderland. Appropriate play is vital for the development, health, wellbeing and happiness of our children, particularly for young people facing barriers like discrimination and exclusion.

Every child should have equal right to play and enjoy childhood experiences through a range of challenging, formal and informal play opportunities in a safe and inclusive environment wherever they are in Sunderland which adheres to Article 31 of the UNCRC.

Therefore, Council resolves to ensure that:

- All Council play parks are risk assessed for accessibility and inclusiveness for those with disabilities with the City Council to produce short-, medium- and long-term action plans which should be reported back to Council within six months.
- All future play spaces are developed with community participation, co-design and co-production - and, when equipment is damaged or vandalised, consideration is given to replacing it with accessible alternatives.
- All disabled children can enjoy inclusive and appropriate play parks that are accessible within a reasonable distance of their home.
- To install a minimum of one wheelchair swing in each of the five committee areas.
- To enhance sensory involvement by procuring equipment which is aimed at touch and sound senses for those with audio or visual impairments.”

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Rowntree, duly seconded by Councillor Williams, moved the following amendment:-

First Paragraph:-

After “This Council” delete “recognises” and add “continues to recognise”

First Bullet point:-

After “All Council play parks” delete “are” and add “continue to be”

After ‘inclusiveness for those” add “children and accompanying adults”

After “with disabilities” delete “with the city council to produce” and add “and that regular updates to play park condition surveys continue to take place. That this information is used to inform on producing”

Second Bullet Point

After “co-production” delete “and” and add “with inclusivity as a key focus - noting the existing commitment that all planned improvements to play spaces already include inclusive equipment being installed. That this commitment be extended to ensure that”

Fourth Bullet Point

After “minimum of one” add “additional”

Final Bullet Point

After “sensory involvement” delete “by procuring” and add “ensure that plans being developed for introducing Smart Play equipment across the City considers the introduction of”

So that the amended motion would read:-

This Council continues to recognise the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities across the City of Sunderland. Appropriate play is vital for the development, health, wellbeing and happiness of our children, particularly for young people facing barriers like discrimination and exclusion.

Every child should have equal right to play and enjoy childhood experiences through a range of challenging, formal and informal play opportunities in a safe and inclusive environment wherever they are in Sunderland which adheres to Article 31 of the UNCRC.

Therefore, Council resolves to ensure that:

- All Council play parks continue to be risk assessed for accessibility and inclusiveness for those children and accompanying adults with disabilities and that regular updates to play park condition surveys continue to take place. That this information is used to inform on producing short-, medium- and long-term action plans which should be reported back to Council within six months.
- All future play spaces are developed with community participation, co-design and co-production - with inclusivity as a key focus - noting the existing commitment that all planned improvements to play spaces already include inclusive equipment being installed. That this commitment be extended to ensure that when equipment is damaged or vandalised, consideration is given to replacing it with accessible alternatives.

- All disabled children can enjoy inclusive and appropriate play parks that are accessible within a reasonable distance of their home.
- To install a minimum of one additional wheelchair swing in each of the five committee areas.
- To enhance sensory involvement, ensure that plans being developed for introducing Smart Play equipment across the City considers the introduction of equipment which is aimed at touch and sound senses for those with audio or visual impairments.

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

The Mayor read the new Substantive Motion.

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

25. RESOLVED that:-

This Council continues to recognise the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities across the City of Sunderland. Appropriate play is vital for the development, health, wellbeing and happiness of our children, particularly for young people facing barriers like discrimination and exclusion.

Every child should have equal right to play and enjoy childhood experiences through a range of challenging, formal and informal play opportunities in a safe and inclusive environment wherever they are in Sunderland which adheres to Article 31 of the UNCRC.

Therefore, Council resolves to ensure that:

- All Council play parks continue to be risk assessed for accessibility and inclusiveness for those children and accompanying adults with disabilities and that regular updates to play park condition surveys continue to take place. That this information is used to inform on producing short-, medium- and long-term action plans which should be reported back to Council within six months.
- All future play spaces are developed with community participation, co-design and co-production - with inclusivity as a key focus - noting the existing commitment that all planned improvements to play spaces already include inclusive equipment being installed. That this commitment be extended to ensure that when equipment is damaged or vandalised, consideration is given to replacing it with accessible alternatives.
- All disabled children can enjoy inclusive and appropriate play parks that are accessible within a reasonable distance of their home.
- To install a minimum of one additional wheelchair swing in each of the five committee areas.

- To enhance sensory involvement, ensure that plans being developed for introducing Smart Play equipment across the City considers the introduction of equipment which is aimed at touch and sound senses for those with audio or visual impairments.

(ii) Sewage Dumping by Water Companies

Councillor Hodson, duly seconded by Councillor Bond, moved the following motion:-

“This Council notes that:

- Environment Agency reporting data has revealed that water companies in England have recorded 772,000 sewage dumping events in 2020 and 2021. Across the Northumbrian Water area there have been 69,048 sewage dumping events reported to the Environment Agency in the same time period.
- Northumbrian Water made profits of £758.4m in the 2020/2021 fiscal year and that the Chief Executive of Northumbrian Water received a bonus and benefits of £575,000 on top of a base salary of £1,465,000, taking home a total package including pension contributions of £2,214,000.
- The Environment Act 2021 failed to set water companies with specific targets or deadlines to reduce sewage outflows into waterways and the sea.

Council believes that:

- No one should be paid a bonus for long term and endemic failure with no satisfactory solution in sight.
- Action needs to be taken both at local and national level to address the failures of privatised water companies operating in England.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and urge the government to legislate to block any further bonus payments to directors of water companies in England until a satisfactory solution has been achieved.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency and urge them to take action to reduce the number and volume of outflows at Seaburn, Roker, Hendon and in the River Wear; and further request that Northumbria Water commission an independent survey of the sewage outflows into the North Sea off Sunderland and publish that report in the public domain.”

Councillor Doyle, duly seconded by Councillor Hartnack moved the following amendment:-

To add to the final bullet points:-

'Terms of reference for the survey should include an assessment of 1) the Hendon Sewage Treatment Works' ability to meet current and anticipated future demand and 2) the ecological impact of raw sewage discharges within the Sunderland local authority area.'

To insert an additional bullet point:-

'Ask the Chief Executive in his letter to the Environment Agency to request that a public inquiry is held into the local sewage system in order to determine the pending application to vary environmental permit 245/1207.'

So that the amended motion would read:-

"This Council notes that:

- Environment Agency reporting data has revealed that water companies in England have recorded 772,000 sewage dumping events in 2020 and 2021. Across the Northumbrian Water area there have been 69,048 sewage dumping events reported to the Environment Agency in the same time period.
- Northumbrian Water made profits of £758.4m in the 2020/2021 fiscal year and that the Chief Executive of Northumbrian Water received a bonus and benefits of £575,000 on top of a base salary of £1,465,000, taking home a total package including pension contributions of £2,214,000.
- The Environment Act 2021 failed to set water companies with specific targets or deadlines to reduce sewage outflows into waterways and the sea.

Council believes that:

- No one should be paid a bonus for long term and endemic failure with no satisfactory solution in sight.
- Action needs to be taken both at local and national level to address the failures of privatised water companies operating in England.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and urge the government to legislate to block any further bonus payments to directors of water companies in England until a satisfactory solution has been achieved.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency and urge them to take action to reduce the number and volume of outflows at Seaburn, Roker, Hendon and in the River Wear; and further request that Northumbria Water commission an independent survey of the sewage outflows into the North Sea off Sunderland and publish that report in the public domain. Terms of reference for the survey should include an assessment of 1) the Hendon Sewage Treatment Works' ability to meet current and anticipated future demand and 2) the ecological impact of raw sewage discharges within the Sunderland local authority area.
- Ask the Chief Executive in his letter to the Environment Agency to request that a public inquiry is held into the local sewage system in order to determine the pending application to vary environmental permit 245/1207."

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried with sixty-seven Members voting unanimously in favour:-

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

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

The Mayor read the new Substantive Motion.

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

26. RESOLVED that:-

This Council notes that:

- Environment Agency reporting data has revealed that water companies in England have recorded 772,000 sewage dumping events in 2020 and 2021. Across the Northumbrian Water area there have been 69,048 sewage dumping events reported to the Environment Agency in the same time period.
- Northumbrian Water made profits of £758.4m in the 2020/2021 fiscal year and that the Chief Executive of Northumbrian Water received a bonus and benefits of £575,000 on top of a base salary of £1,465,000, taking home a total package including pension contributions of £2,214,000.
- The Environment Act 2021 failed to set water companies with specific targets or deadlines to reduce sewage outflows into waterways and the sea.

Council believes that:

- No one should be paid a bonus for long term and endemic failure with no satisfactory solution in sight.
- Action needs to be taken both at local and national level to address the failures of privatised water companies operating in England.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and urge the government to legislate to block any further bonus payments to directors of water companies in England until a satisfactory solution has been achieved.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency and urge them to take action to reduce the number and volume of outflows at Seaburn, Roker, Hendon and in the River Wear; and further request that Northumbria Water commission an independent survey of the sewage outflows into the North Sea off Sunderland and publish that report in the public domain. Terms of reference for the survey should include an assessment of 1) the Hendon Sewage Treatment Works' ability to meet current and anticipated future demand and 2) the ecological impact of raw sewage discharges within the Sunderland local authority area.
- Ask the Chief Executive in his letter to the Environment Agency to request that a public inquiry is held into the local sewage system in order to determine the pending application to vary environmental permit 245/1207.

(iii) Protecting Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Councillor Tye, duly seconded by Councillor Usher moved the following motion:-

“Sunderland Council notes that the Home Office and His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have recognised the magnificent work Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service carried out to support the country’s response to the COVID-19 and the work it does to protect the local community and businesses from fire risk.

That challenge has been made all the more difficult by the impact of global and national economic factors in recent months that have far exceeded the inflationary assumptions within the current Budget and Financial Plan approved in February 2022.

Council notes that the TWFRS is committed to facing these challenges positively and constructively. However, Council recognises the real current impact of inflation on their ability to deliver much-needed services for local people and businesses, including in Sunderland.

The highest levels of inflation for four decades are now driving up the costs of the raw materials, labour, energy and other costs which the Fire Authority must pay for in order to provide essential public services and capital investment in the Service.

The Fire Authority’s budget for 2022/23 was set in February 2022 based on estimates that price inflation and wage growth would both be in the region of 2% to 3% in 2022/23. These were not unrealistic assumptions as they reflected the Government’s own forecasts for inflation in 2022 and 2023, specifically: -

- In October 2021, the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 Statement set out forecasts that the Consumer Price Index could reach 4% in 2022, but would fall to 2.6% by 2023;

- In December 2021, the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement updated grant funding for 2022/23 by the actual Consumer Price Index as at September 2021 (3.1%); and,
- In February 2022 (when TWFRS budgets were being finalised), the Office of Budget Responsibility forecast that the Consumer Price Index could reach 4.7% in 2022 but would fall to 2.3% by 2023.

Council notes that, since then, there has since been a dramatic shift in these expectations. The latest figure (19 October 2022) from the Office of Budget Responsibility is that the Consumer Price Index is now 10.1% – significantly higher than both the inflationary increase in funding which the Fire Authority received and the forecast increases which informed the TWFRS budget for 2022/23.

Coupled with continuing growth in demand for Protection services and meeting increasing risks such as flooding, Council recognises that the TWFRS is now facing enormous financial difficulties.

Council notes that the Institute for Government recently estimated that local authorities in England will be facing unbudgeted costs of up to £2bn as a result of inflation being significantly higher than was forecast in the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Autumn Budget and Spending Review announcements. The Fire Authority has estimated that this impact could exceed the revenue provision by £2.5m in 2022/23 and the expected increase in capital expenditure is potentially in excess of £5m;

The Fire Authority had a fixed price electricity contract that ended in March 2022. The new contract has increased prices but with escalating utility costs both Gas and Electricity costs are increasing significantly and this impact has been included within the above revenue budget projection.

Capital projects – many of which are essential in providing firefighters with the relevant training, PPE and equipment to provide an effective and safe fire response, have also been hit. The Fire Authority is facing significant extra costs due to increases in the price of raw materials and labour.

The local government and firefighter pay award for 2022/23 have yet to be resolved – with inflation at 10.1% this year, pay disputes are inevitable if pay offers represent significant real-terms pay cuts. While removing any “cap” on pay increases, the Government has previously stated that any pay award must be funded from the Fire Authority budget.

This was already going to be difficult when pay was forecast to rise by around 2.5%, pay awards above those levels will add significant pressure on Authority finances if they are not resourced from additional funding provided by the Government. The Fire Authority had, through careful budget management made provision for a 3% pay rise however, it is clear that this will not cover the potential pay rise demands now faced.

Each additional 1% pay rise above what has been budgeted for will cost approximately £0.5m; and, Operational revenue budgets across the full range of Authority services are being impacted by increases in the costs of materials, fuel, labour and a higher indexation ratio being applied to outsourced contracts.

Council recognises that the financial challenge of inflation comes on top of the enormous pressures faced by the Fire Authority after a decade of austerity when the biggest cuts in local authority funding impacted on the authorities in the most deprived areas of the country because they relied more heavily on the Government grants which were cut so severely.

The Fire Authority is also less able to raise income from increases in Council Tax and Business Rates. Council is concerned that, without extra support, the Fire Authority may have to once again balance the books by cutting more essential services to our vulnerable residents in Sunderland.

Council notes that, over the last decade or so, the TWFRS have prioritised every possible option to achieve greater efficiency and minimise the need to cut budgets for essential services. It is clearly not realistic to expect financial pressures of this magnitude to be addressed through further efficiencies.

Council notes that, in effect, the Local Government Finance Settlement was determined on the basis of a set of assumptions which has since been proven to be significantly inaccurate. Council appreciates that those assumptions were legitimate at the time, but global and national events since then have created a wholly different set of circumstances. It would be unfair and unrealistic to expect the Fire Authority to be able to cope with the scale of those changes. Sunderland Council therefore urges the Government to ensure that the inflationary pressures facing fire and rescue authorities in 2022/23 are properly and fully funded.

Council asserts that, in the longer-term, for Levelling Up to be effective, it is essential that inequalities in local government funding are addressed. This must be reflected in both the forthcoming "Fair Funding" Review and the 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement – which should ensure that local authority funding is fairly distributed on the basis of local levels of deprivation and properly reflects the prevailing rates of price inflation and wage inflation which affect the services that the Fire Authority delivers.

Council urges the Government to appreciate that the fire and rescue sector cannot resolve the current difficulties without national Government support.

The Council Leader in conjunction with all Tyne and Wear Council Leaders is therefore requested to write to the appropriate Government Minister, to seek such financial support, as a matter of urgency."

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

27. RESOLVED that:-

Sunderland Council notes that the Home Office and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have recognised the magnificent work Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service carried out to support the country's response to the COVID-19 and the work it does to protect the local community and businesses from fire risk.

That challenge has been made all the more difficult by the impact of global and national economic factors in recent months that have far exceeded the inflationary assumptions within the current Budget and Financial Plan approved in February 2022.

Council notes that the TWFRS is committed to facing these challenges positively and constructively. However, Council recognises the real current impact of inflation on their ability to deliver much-needed services for local people and businesses, including in Sunderland.

The highest levels of inflation for four decades are now driving up the costs of the raw materials, labour, energy and other costs which the Fire Authority must pay for in order to provide essential public services and capital investment in the Service.

The Fire Authority's budget for 2022/23 was set in February 2022 based on estimates that price inflation and wage growth would both be in the region of 2% to 3% in 2022/23. These were not unrealistic assumptions as they reflected the Government's own forecasts for inflation in 2022 and 2023, specifically: -

- In October 2021, the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 Statement set out forecasts that the Consumer Price Index could reach 4% in 2022, but would fall to 2.6% by 2023;
- In December 2021, the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement updated grant funding for 2022/23 by the actual Consumer Price Index as at September 2021 (3.1%); and,
- In February 2022 (when TWFRS budgets were being finalised), the Office of Budget Responsibility forecast that the Consumer Price Index could reach 4.7% in 2022 but would fall to 2.3% by 2023.

Council notes that, since then, there has since been a dramatic shift in these expectations. The latest figure (19 October 2022) from the Office of Budget Responsibility is that the Consumer Price Index is now 10.1% – significantly higher than both the inflationary increase in funding which the Fire Authority received and the forecast increases which informed the TWFRS budget for 2022/23.

Coupled with continuing growth in demand for Protection services and meeting increasing risks such as flooding, Council recognises that the TWFRS is now facing enormous financial difficulties.

Council notes that the Institute for Government recently estimated that local authorities in England will be facing unbudgeted costs of up to £2bn as a result of inflation being significantly higher than was forecast in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Budget and Spending Review announcements. The Fire Authority has estimated that this impact could exceed the revenue provision by £2.5m in 2022/23 and the expected increase in capital expenditure is potentially in excess of £5m;

The Fire Authority had a fixed price electricity contract that ended in March 2022. The new contract has increased prices but with escalating utility costs both Gas and Electricity costs are increasing significantly and this impact has been included within the above revenue budget projection.

Capital projects – many of which are essential in providing firefighters with the relevant training, PPE and equipment to provide an effective and safe fire response, have also been hit. The Fire Authority is facing significant extra costs due to increases in the price of raw materials and labour.

The local government and firefighter pay award for 2022/23 have yet to be resolved – with inflation at 10.1% this year, pay disputes are inevitable if pay offers represent significant real-terms pay cuts. While removing any “cap” on pay increases, the Government has previously stated that any pay award must be funded from the Fire Authority budget.

This was already going to be difficult when pay was forecast to rise by around 2.5%, pay awards above those levels will add significant pressure on Authority finances if they are not resourced from additional funding provided by the Government. The Fire Authority had, through careful budget management made provision for a 3% pay rise however, it is clear that this will not cover the potential pay rise demands now faced.

Each additional 1% pay rise above what has been budgeted for will cost approximately £0.5m; and, Operational revenue budgets across the full range of Authority services are being impacted by increases in the costs of materials, fuel, labour and a higher indexation ratio being applied to outsourced contracts.

Council recognises that the financial challenge of inflation comes on top of the enormous pressures faced by the Fire Authority after a decade of austerity when the biggest cuts in local authority funding impacted on the authorities in the most deprived areas of the country because they relied more heavily on the Government grants which were cut so severely.

The Fire Authority is also less able to raise income from increases in Council Tax and Business Rates. Council is concerned that, without extra support, the Fire Authority may have to once again balance the books by cutting more essential services to our vulnerable residents in Sunderland.

Council notes that, over the last decade or so, the TWFRS have prioritised every possible option to achieve greater efficiency and minimise the need to cut budgets for essential services. It is clearly not realistic to expect financial pressures of this magnitude to be addressed through further efficiencies.

Council notes that, in effect, the Local Government Finance Settlement was determined on the basis of a set of assumptions which has since been proven to be significantly inaccurate. Council appreciates that those assumptions were legitimate at the time, but global and national events since then have created a wholly different set of circumstances. It would be unfair and unrealistic to expect the Fire Authority to be able to cope with the scale of those changes. Sunderland Council therefore urges the Government to ensure that the inflationary pressures facing fire and rescue authorities in 2022/23 are properly and fully funded.

Council asserts that, in the longer-term, for Levelling Up to be effective, it is essential that inequalities in local government funding are addressed. This must be reflected in both the forthcoming “Fair Funding” Review and the 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement – which should ensure that local authority funding is fairly distributed on the basis of local levels of deprivation and properly reflects the prevailing rates of price inflation and wage inflation which affect the services that the Fire Authority delivers.

Council urges the Government to appreciate that the fire and rescue sector cannot resolve the current difficulties without national Government support.

The Council Leader in conjunction with all Tyne and Wear Council Leaders is therefore requested to write to the appropriate Government Minister, to seek such financial support, as a matter of urgency.

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

**(Signed) A SMITH,
Mayor.**

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Council Tax Base 2023-2024

That at its meeting to be held on 19 January, Cabinet will give 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.

The Cabinet is to consider recommending to Council that:-

- (a) The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2023/2024 be approved; and
- (b) That 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.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

2. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That at its meeting to be held on 19 January, Cabinet will give 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.

The Cabinet is to consider recommending to Council that:-

- (i) No changes are made to the current LCTSS, the main features of which are 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.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

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

That at its meeting to be held on 19 January, Cabinet will give 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 has considered the allowances currently paid to Members and its report is attached as Appendix 1.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

CABINET – 19 JANUARY 2023**COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023/2024****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To detail 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 Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council:
 - The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2023/2024 be approved; and
 - That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 and the 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.

3. Background to the Calculation of the Council Tax Base

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base is the estimated number of properties in each valuation band adjusted to take account of the estimated number of discounts, disregards and exemptions. The Council levies the Council Tax on the basis of properties in band D and thus the numbers for each valuation band are adjusted to the proportion which their number is to band D. The Council must then estimate its level of collection for the year and apply this figure to arrive at the Council Tax Base figure.
- 3.2 The Council Tax Base must be calculated for both the Billing Authority (Sunderland) and Hetton Town Council (a local parish precept). The Billing Authority's Tax Base will be used to calculate the Council Tax for the City Council (including any social care precept) and as the basis for the major precepting authorities (Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) to determine their precept requirements.
- 3.3 The introduction of the Local Council Tax Support from 1st April 2013 requires that the Council must annually approve its proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The impact of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme is recognised within the calculations as a Council Tax discount which is referred to as Item Z. The proposed 2023/2024 Local Council Tax Support Scheme is set out elsewhere on today's agenda. The Tax Base of the Council for 2023/2024 includes the full impact of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme as required by the regulations.

- 3.4 The Council Tax Base has increased from last year by 1,458 with an increase in respect of Hetton Town Council of 133. The increase is primarily due to an anticipated reduced uptake of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme during 2023/2024 compared with that assumed within the estimate of the Council Tax Base for the current year and also increases in the numbers of properties across the City.

4. Calculations of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

- 4.1 This calculation is in two parts – 'A' - the calculation of the estimated adjusted band D properties and 'B' - the estimated level of collection.

- 4.2 The calculation of 'A' - the relevant amounts for each band is complex and includes a number of calculations which are shown at Appendix 1.

- 4.3 Calculation of Item 'B' - Estimate of Collection Rate

This element of the formula is to reflect the level of collection anticipated. Following consideration of historic and current collection levels of both in year and previous years' arrears collection, and the general economic climate, it is proposed to continue to apply 98.0% for 2023/2024.

- 4.4 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Council's Tax Base is: 'A' 75,121.44 x 'B' 98.0% = 73,619
(for comparison the previous year's Tax Base was 72,161)

5. Calculation of Council Tax Base for Hetton Town Council - Local Precept

- 5.1 The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for the area covered by Hetton Town Council are similar to those used in calculating the Billing Authority's Tax Base except that chargeable dwellings and discounts are to be taken for only those dwellings and discounts relating to the area for which the Council Tax Base is to be calculated. These detailed calculations are shown in Appendix 1.

- 5.2 The same collection rate is required to be used for Parish precepts as for the Billing Authority.

- 5.3 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Tax Base for Hetton Town Council is: 'A' 4,270.40 x 'B' 98.0% = 4,185
(for comparison the previous year's Tax base was 4,052).

6. Reasons for Decision

- 6.1 To comply with statutory requirements.

7. Alternative Options

- 7.1 There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

8. Impact Analysis

8.1 There are no implications.

9. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

9.1 None

10. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Calculation of the Council Tax Base

11. Background Papers

None

Council Tax Base - Sunderland City Council											
		Disabled Band (A)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Chargeable Dwellings	Item H	208.00	77,360.00	19,202.00	17,342.00	9,419.00	3,495.00	1,168.00	674.00	22.00	128,890.00
Total Discount	Item Q	(15.50)	(9,959.75)	(1,823.25)	(1,253.50)	(497.00)	(168.25)	(55.25)	(55.00)	(5.00)	(13,832.50)
Premium Factor	Item E	0	705	75	29	23	10	12	4	3	861
Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts	Item J	0	173	222	163	166	68	18	7	1	818
Council Tax Support Estimate	Item Z	(46.32)	(18,637.78)	(1,794.21)	(701.78)	(184.90)	(48.84)	(8.44)	(7.02)	0.00	21,429.29
Adjusted number of dwellings		146.18	49,640.47	15,881.54	15,578.72	8,926.10	3,355.91	1,134.31	622.98	21.00	95,307.21
Prescribed Proportions for each Band	Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18	
Prescribed Proportion for Band D	Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
Adjusted number of dwellings*(F/G)	Item A	81.21	33,093.65	12,352.31	13,847.75	8,926.10	4,101.67	1,638.45	1,038.30	42.00	75,121.44
Estimated Collection Rate	Item B	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%
Tax Base A*B		79.58	32,431.78	12,105.26	13,570.79	8,747.58	4,019.64	1,605.68	1,017.53	41.16	73,619.00
Council Tax Base - Hetton Town Council											
		Disabled Band (A)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Chargeable Dwellings	Item H	11.00	4,667.00	1,444.00	717.00	414.00	126.00	55.00	25.00	1.00	7,460.00
Total Discount	Item Q	(2.00)	(582.15)	(125.00)	(43.50)	(23.50)	(7.75)	(4.25)	(2.00)	0.00	(790.15)
Premium Factor	Item E	0	53	5	1	4	0	2	0	1	66
Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts	Item J	0	0	31	16	23	9	1	0	0	80
Council Tax Support Estimate	Item Z	(2.63)	(1,134.49)	(79.51)	(23.69)	(10.69)	(2.01)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,253.02)
Adjusted number of dwellings		6.37	3,003.36	1,275.49	666.81	406.81	125.24	53.75	23.00	2.00	5,562.83
Prescribed Proportions for each Band	Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18	
Prescribed Proportion for Band D	Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
Adjusted number of dwellings*(F/G)	Item A	3.54	2,002.24	992.05	592.72	406.81	153.07	77.64	38.33	4.00	4,270.40
Estimated Collection Rate	Item B	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%
Tax Base A*B		3.47	1,962.20	972.21	580.87	398.67	150.01	76.09	37.56	3.92	4,185.00

CABINET MEETING –19 JANUARY 2023

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To request Cabinet to 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.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that:
- (i) No changes are made to the current LCTSS, the main features of which are 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. Background

- 3.1 The former council tax benefit system was abolished by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and was replaced (by virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 2012) by a requirement for locally adopted Council Tax reduction schemes (in Sunderland referred to as the “Local Council Tax Support Scheme”) from 1st April 2013, thereby transferring responsibility for Council Tax support from central to local government.
- 3.2 In accordance with that requirement, the Council adopted a LCTSS which was based on the government’s default scheme, for implementation as from April 2013. The scheme incorporated protection for pensioners as required by the Local Government Finance Act provisions, namely the requirement that they must receive the same levels of entitlement under the new Council Tax Support Scheme as they had received under the old Council Tax Benefit Scheme. Evaluation of previous consultation resulted in some minor modifications to the scheme in 2015/16 such as utilising assumed consent that applicants of Housing Benefit also wished to be considered for Local Council Tax Support. Following consultation, further technical and administrative changes were implemented from 1st April 2018 in order to align the scheme to Housing Benefit.

- 3.3 There were no changes to the council tax support entitlement which will continue to be calculated and reduced by 8.5% for all working aged claimants.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The existing scheme is operating effectively and pensioners continue to be afforded protection. It is proposed to continue to monitor any impacts to the scheme over the coming year as a result of any Welfare Reform changes and review as necessary going forward.

- 4.2 Cabinet previously agreed to review the current LCTSS during 2022/2023 with a view to consulting upon and potentially implementing a banded scheme for 2023/2024. Given the current cost of living crisis this review has been deferred. It is proposed that potential models are developed and considered during 2023/2024 for implementation in 2024/2025. As part of this, work will be undertaken with Scrutiny Committee ahead of any consultation being carried out.

5. Proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/2024

- 5.1 Following the application of the current scheme it is proposed that no changes are made except for introducing any regulations laid down by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

- 5.5 The main features of the proposed scheme for the 2023/2024 financial year are set out in Appendix A.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The cost of the scheme has been factored into the Council's budget planning for 2023/24.

7. Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 The proposed scheme, the main features which are as set out at Appendix A, reflects the experience of the impact of the scheme to date and is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for residents on a low income; and
The Council must have its LCTSS approved by 11 March 2023, and the design of the scheme impacts upon the calculation of the council tax base which is considered elsewhere on today's agenda.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1 There are no alternative options proposed. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider, for each financial year, whether to revise its LCTSS or replace it with another scheme, with any revision or replacement scheme being determined by 11th March in the preceding financial year.

9. Impact Analysis

(a) Equalities –

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is set out in Appendix B to this report.

Work will continue to assess the impact of this scheme alongside the related impacts of any welfare and benefit reforms either already introduced, planned to be introduced or still being considered by Government.

10. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (i) **Legal Implications** –The comments of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance have been taken into account in preparing this report.

- (ii) **Other Consultations** –The comments of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities have been taken into account in preparing this report. Consultation has not been carried out with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority nor the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Council's major precepting authorities) or any other persons as the requirement for such wider consultation applies only in cases where the Council exercises discretion to revise or replace the scheme.

11. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Local Council Tax Support Scheme Main Features
Appendix B – Equality Analysis

12. Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme Main Features

1. Council tax support entitlement will be calculated and reduced by 8.5% for all working aged claimants.
2. Pensioners will continue to receive protection in line with the prescribed regulations.
3. Those non-dependants serving in the forces on operations will continue to be disregarded from the calculation.
4. Information held in respect of Housing Benefit can be used to calculate Council Tax support where appropriate.
5. LCTSS claims may be backdated to a maximum of one month providing good cause is shown.
6. No family premium will be used in the calculation for new applicants.
7. There will be no personal allowance for any third or subsequent child for new applicants (unless an exception applies).
8. A claimant will not be entitled to Council Tax Support if they are temporarily absent from Great Britain for longer than 4 weeks (unless an exception applies).
9. A notification of Universal Credit will be treated as an indication of a claim for Council Tax Support.

EQUALITY ANALYSIS

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:

Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/2024

Date: 12/12/2022

Version Number: v1

Equality Analysis completed by:

Name/Job title:
Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager)
Lorraine Nelson (Benefits Manager)

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name/Job title:
Paul Wilson (Director of Finance)

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ()

Changing/Being Reviewed (x)

Other ()

1. Purpose and scope

Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

The Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 2012 transferred responsibility for Local Council Tax Support Schemes (LCTSS) from central to local government from 1st April 2013. The LGFA 2012 also legislated that pensioners must receive protection, in that they must receive the same levels of entitlement under the new local Council Tax Support scheme as they had received under the old Council Tax Benefit scheme.

The Council adopted a scheme which was based on the government's default scheme incorporating protection for pensioners. The scheme requires that all working age households contribute towards their council tax bill.

Since April 2013, the scheme has been reviewed and moderately updated to reflect legislative changes and policy decisions. In April 2018 some further technical and administrative changes were implemented in order to align the scheme to Housing Benefit rules and to make the LCTSS more efficient to administer and easier for the customer to understand. The Sunderland scheme(s) for 2019/2020 onwards continued with a reduction in Council Tax Support by 8.5% for all working age claimants (e.g working age on lowest income paid £1.49 per week (single people), and £1.99 per week (couples/families), albeit in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, Council Tax Support recipients also received up to an additional £150.00 per financial year as part of a COVID-19 Hardship Fund payment.

The council must approve its Local Council Tax Support Scheme by 11 March 2023. In line with reviewing the scheme, it is proposed that the existing scheme **continues to apply** for the year commencing 1st April 2023. Subject to approval by 11th March 2023, the scheme will come into force on 1st April 2023.

The scheme will be reviewed each year and any impacts or unintended consequences will be assessed and reviewed when considering the scheme for 2024/2025.

None of the protected groups are restricted from claiming council tax support. Their eligibility is determined by their financial and personal circumstances. The current caseload is 30,893 of which 12,110 are pensioners and 18,783 are working age claimants.

Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

This equality analysis has been informed by

- Consultation with the Revenues Manager, Benefits Manager and Director of Finance

The proposal makes no changes to the current system and is to continue for 2023/2024.

Gaps in intelligence and information

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

Not applicable.

Additional Impacts

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)

Not applicable.

2. Analysis of impact on people

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.

Characteristic	List of Impacts	
	Positive	Negative
Age		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Disability		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Gender/Sex		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Marriage & Civil Partnership		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Pregnancy and maternity		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Race/Ethnicity		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Religion/belief		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Sexual Orientation		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.
Gender identity		Given that the scheme is unchanged, the impact is neutral.

3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

- No Major Change (X)
- Continue Despite Negative Implications ()
- Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity ()
- Stop ()

Action Plan

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	Monitoring Arrangements
Monitor the impact through payment and arrears statistics	Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager)	Quarterly	As part of routine Council Tax performance monitoring
Monitor impact on claimants	Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager) and Loraine Nelson (Benefits Manager)	Ongoing	In conjunction with Benefits team. Feedback from customers.
Review of scheme	Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager) and Loraine Nelson (Benefits Manager)	July 2023	Consultation exercise with Members, the residents of Sunderland and precepting bodies.

CABINET

19 JANUARY 2023

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEMES - 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1. Purpose of report

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.

2. Description of decision

- 2.1 To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council, in respect of the Members' Allowances Schemes for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

3. Review by 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, Karen Straughair and Stuart Green.
- 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 In addition to considering the Scheme for 2023/2024, in view of the decision at Annual Council in May 2022 to merge the Planning and Highways East and West Committees into a single committee, the Panel has also considered the allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of the single committee and made a recommendation for amendment of the current Scheme and backdating of the amendment. The Panel has recommended that the allowances are set at the same level as those awarded to the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee, namely £8,369 and £4,184 respectively. The Panel has also recommended that the Scheme for 2023/2024 provides for an increase in the basic allowance to £8,995, which approximates to the main pay award for Council staff, excluding any separate pay award increases that are given to specific groups, such as lower paid staff or Chief Officers. The Panel's report is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year. Due to the change in the Council's committee structure regarding planning and highways functions, which was approved at Annual Council in May 2022, it is also appropriate to consider the Panel's recommended amendment to the current Scheme for 2022/2023 and backdating of the amendment.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2023/2024, as this is a statutory requirement.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Accepting in full the Panel's recommendations, the additional costs would be £2,092 in 2022/2023 and £50,213 in 2023/2024 and would be met from general contingencies.

Background papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – AMENDMENT OF SCHEME FOR 2022/2023 AND ADOPTION OF SCHEME FOR 2023/2024

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Council of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/2023 and adoption of a Scheme for 2023/2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council must adopt a new Scheme before 1st April each year and before amending a Scheme, must have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel. This report sets out the Panel's recommendations for amending the current Scheme for 2022/2023 and backdating the proposed amendments, and also for adopting a Scheme for the financial year 2023/2024.

3. Review of the Schemes for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024

- 3.1 In undertaking its review, the Panel had regard to guidance issued by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It also considered information regarding the allowances paid by other authorities in the region and took account of representations received.
- 3.2 The Panel received verbal and / or written representations from the Leader of the Council and one of the opposition group leaders. No written representations were received from the wider Council membership.
- 3.3 The Panel was informed of a change that had been made to the Council's committee structure with effect from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2022, namely the merger of the two Planning and Highways Committees (East and West) into one city-wide Planning and Highways Committee. In the circumstances, the Panel considered it appropriate to review the allowance awarded to the role of Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee and to consider the position of Vice Chair. In this regard, in order to better understand the roles and responsibilities of the two

positions, the Panel found it helpful to meet with the Committee Chair, as well as to hear from the Leader of the Council on this matter, as the Leader is also the current holder of the position of Vice Chair of the Committee.

3.4 The Panel was also advised that at the Annual Council meeting in May 2022, no appointments were made to the Adoption and Fostering Panels. The Council had been informed at its Annual Meeting that the regulation and inspection of both adoption and fostering services sit separately from Children's Services and that they have their own Ofsted judgments. There is no requirement for the Council to nominate elected members to the Panels and in order to maintain ongoing assurance to the Council, performance reports are provided to various Council meetings. In addition, the Regional Adoption Agency Head of Service attends Scrutiny Committee to provide a full update on outcomes.

4. Submissions received from Group Leaders

4.1 Representations by Group Leaders

4.1.1 Group Leaders were offered the opportunity to address the Panel should they wish to do so. The Panel met with those representatives who accepted the invitation and their submissions are summarised below.

4.2 Summary of Submissions made by the Leader of the Council

4.2.1 With regard to the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee, the Leader suggested that the roles and responsibilities of these positions were comparable to those of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and requested that the Panel consider recommending setting the allowances at the same levels.

4.2.2 The Panel referred the Leader to previous reviews which had recommended that the Council increase the basic allowance paid to councillors and observed that these recommendations had not been accepted. The Leader advised the Panel that the Labour group did not consider it appropriate to implement an increase at this time, in view of the cost-of-living pressures faced by residents of the City.

4.3 Summary of Submissions made by Opposition Group Leader

- 4.3.1 Written and verbal submissions were received from one of the opposition group leaders, which were in line with submissions they had submitted in the course of previous reviews, to the effect that the number of SRAs awarded and the amounts paid were too high. The submissions were in support of the following:
- SRAs for Deputy Cabinet Members to be removed, with the posts being voluntary or discontinued, with a view to Cabinet members working full time on their brief.
 - SRAs for all Vice Chair positions on Area Committees to be removed, to bring them in line with Scrutiny Committee Vice Chairs, and all Area Vice Chair responsibilities to be transferred to the Chair.
 - Area Committee Chairs' SRAs to reduce by 50%.
 - Scrutiny Committee Chairs' SRAs to reduce by 50%.
 - No increase for opposition SRAs.
 - While acknowledging cost of living pressures, there should not be any increase in basic allowance. If this was considered necessary, Special Responsibility Allowances should be reduced to pay for this.
- 4.3.2 On this occasion, reference was also made to the Council being at the early stages of a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission and it was submitted that the Council should request the Panel to undertake an in-depth review of roles and responsibilities in the very near future.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 5.1 As was observed in the last review, a number of the Opposition submissions have been made to the Panel in the course of previous reviews and while the Panel would be open to revisiting the allowances concerned should circumstances change, it did not consider that there was any need to reduce the number or level of allowances on this occasion.
- 5.2 The Panel has previously recommended an uplift in the basic allowance, which it is mindful has not been increased for a number of years. This recommendation was not accepted by the Council following the last review and it appeared clear from the submissions received as part of the current review, that any such recommendation was unlikely to be approved by the Council on this occasion. Nevertheless, the Panel wishes to acknowledge that cost of living pressures impact on councillors as well as other residents and it would suggest to the Council that care should be taken to ensure that the level of allowance is not so low as to discourage individuals from a wide cross section of society from seeking to become councillors. While it appears likely that the Council will decline to increase the basic allowance,

nevertheless, the Panel remains of the view that this is an appropriate recommendation to make.

- 5.3 As stated in the Panel report for 2022/2023, the Panel is supportive of the principle of linking the basic allowance with any award in respect of staff pay during the previous financial year. As previously, the Panel recommends that this be based on the main pay award used for Council staff, excluding any separate pay award increases that are given to specific groups, for example lower paid staff or Chief Officers. The most recent pay award, which was implemented during 2022/2023, was a flat rate payment and therefore for staff at different salary bands, this represented a different percentage increase in their salary. The Panel considers that applying an increase of 7% to the basic allowance, which would take it to £8,995, would represent an amount approximately equivalent to the total increase in staff salaries.
- 5.4 With regard to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of Planning and Highways Committee, the Panel considered that the associated roles and responsibilities were comparable to those of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, another regulatory “quasi-judicial” committee within the Council. The Panel therefore recommends that the Chair and Vice-Chair are awarded the same level of allowance as that awarded to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, namely £8,369 and £4,184 respectively. As the single Planning and Highways Committee was created with effect from Annual Council 2022, the Panel recommends that in addition to including this provision in the Scheme for 2023/2024, the Scheme for the current year is amended to provide for these allowances and that the amendment is backdated, so as to come into effect from the date on which the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the single Planning and Highways Committee took effect. For the avoidance of doubt, it is recommended that the allowances paid in respect of the Chairs of the former Planning and Highways Committees (East and West), prior to the creation of the single Planning and Highways Committee, remain unchanged.
- 5.5 In addition, while it is recommended that the amendment to the allowances paid to the Chair and Vice Chair in the current year are backdated, the Panel notes that the position of Vice Chair is currently held by the Leader of the Council who, being already in receipt of a special responsibility allowance in respect of the role of Leader, is unable to claim two special responsibility allowances.

- 5.6 As the Council is not nominating members to the Adoption and Fostering Panels at this time, the Panel recommends that the associated allowances should be removed from the Scheme, but the Panel would be happy to reconsider the position, should the Council change its approach.
- 5.7 With regard to the Boundary Commission Review, as this is at an early stage, it is not yet known what, if any, changes to Council size and ward boundaries will be implemented and how this may in turn impact on the Council's governance structure. Any such changes will be taken into account, as appropriate, in the course of future reviews.
- 5.8 At a previous review, the Panel received information regarding the potential creation of a Cabinet position for a "Green" portfolio. The Panel was informed that in the event, the Leader had determined that this portfolio responsibility should fall within the remit of the Deputy Leader. While no submissions were received on this occasion regarding any proposed portfolio changes, for completeness, the Panel wishes to reiterate its previous view that it would be supportive, as an interim position, of a separate portfolio regarding the "Green" agenda being awarded the same level of allowance as the other Cabinet portfolio positions below the Leader, Deputy and Cabinet Secretary. It would, however, wish to hear evidence from the portfolio holder at the following review, regarding the associated demands and responsibilities of the role. Should a deputy be appointed to such a portfolio, the Panel again recommends that no allowance be attached to the deputy position, until the Panel has had the opportunity to hear evidence regarding the responsibilities associated with the post.
- 5.9 The Panel recommends to the Council the proposals set out in this report which are in summary:
- 5.9.1 With regard to the Scheme for 2022/2023
- 5.9.1.1 To amend the Scheme to provide for the award of allowances to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee of £8,369 and £4,184 respectively, such amendment to be backdated so as to take effect from the date from which the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair took effect and for the avoidance of doubt, that the provisions of the Scheme for 2022/2023 in respect of the payment of allowances in respect of the Chairs of the former Planning and Highways (East) Committee and Planning and Highways (West) Committee, remain unchanged.
- 5.9.2 With regard to the Scheme for 2023/2024

- 5.9.2.1 To include provision for the allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning and Highways Committee, as referred to above, in the amounts of £8,369 and £4,184 respectively
- 5.9.2.2 To increase the level of basic allowance to £8995
- 5.9.2.3 To remove provision for allowances to be paid for membership of the Adoption Panels and Fostering Panels
- 5.9.2.4 Other than as referred to above, the Scheme for 2023/2024 to remain unchanged from the current Scheme.
- 5.9.3 The Panel's recommendations regarding the allowances for 2023/ 2024 are summarised in the Appendix to this report.
- 5.10 The Panel wishes to express its thanks to those who have contributed to this review.

John Anderson CBE
Karen Straughair
Stuart Green

December 2022

Appendix

Type of Allowance	Amount per annum £
Basic Allowance	8,995
 Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader of the Council	37,667
Deputy Leader of the Council	25,111
Cabinet Secretary	25,111
Cabinet Member with Portfolio	20,716
Deputy Cabinet Member*	12,556
 Leader of the Majority Group in Opposition - allowance calculated as a percentage of Leader's SRA, up to maximum of 25%.	
 Leader of the second largest Group in Opposition – allowance calculated as a percentage of the Majority Opposition Group Leader's allowance, up to a maximum of 50%	
 Chair of the following:	
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	12,556
Thematic Scrutiny Committee	5,179
Area Committee	10,350
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	8,369
Planning and Highways Committee	8,369
 Vice Chair of the following:	
Area Committee	6,277
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	4,184
Planning and Highways Committee	4,184
 Co-optees' Allowances	
Audit and Governance Committee	
Chairman	5,000
Independent member	2,500

Mayoral

Mayoral Allowance	12,000
Deputy Mayoral	6,000

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

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petition which was presented to 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 has considered the petition and provided the following response.

Working through and with partners the Council has 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 belongs to the Church. We understand that the Church has plans for the building, which they hope are inclusive and supportive of the community and built around the needs of that community. They are 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 is to be commended.

The All Together Consortium worked quickly to respond to the loss of the youth provision and are now delivering sessions for young people aged 10 – 19 years from the Pennywell Community Centre. Provision is available two nights a week from the centre and once a week through detached youth provision. The Council remains 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 has been advised of the above information.

Report

Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries**Report of the Chief Executive****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

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 has however proved to be resource intensive and it has become apparent that additional time will be required in order to prepare a properly considered and reasoned document. This report therefore recommends 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 will be submitted in due course at the appropriate time.

2.0 Background

The background to the review, process to be followed and review timetable were set out in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 10th November 2022, which is attached as an Appendix to this report for ease of reference.

2.2 Current Progress

The Working Group that Council agreed to establish at its November meeting is made up of seven members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) and has met on 2 occasions (25 November 2022, and 16 December 2022). The Working Group will meet again on 3 February 2023. The draft Council Size proposal document has developed significantly and is nearing completion, although some issues require further consideration by the Working Group before the proposal document is in its final draft. In particular, as all Members will be aware, a councillor workload survey has been developed by the Working Group. To make the findings of that survey statistically significant it is important that as many Members of the Council complete the survey and so the deadline for the completion of the survey was extended. Time is now required to assess the findings of the survey and to use that data in the final draft of the Council Size proposal document.

It is 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 is 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 that will determine the Council's Budget and set the Council Tax for 2023-24.

Further reports to Council will be submitted as the Commission's review progresses beyond the considerations of the proposals relating to the Council Size and it begins the process of reviewing the Ward arrangements.

3.0 Financial Implications

There are no additional direct financial implications that arise from this report. The development of the Council Size proposal document will be supported through existing officer time.

4.0 Reasons for Decision

The review is a periodic review undertaken by the Commission. By developing and putting in place appropriate arrangements within the Council, it will be able to participate in the review process and respond accordingly.

5.0 Alternative Options

There are no real alternative options available. The Council has to participate in the review to provide certain information such as property forecasts and data. The Council is invited by the Commission to submit Council Size proposals during the preliminary stage of the review. If the Council did not submit a proposal response then it would mean that the Commission would make its final recommendations without the benefit of the Council's views.

6.0 Background Papers

The Commission's briefing papers to the Council on the process of the Review.

7.0 Recommendations

To recommend to Council that:

- i) it notes:
 - a. the work that has 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 be called 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.

CABINET MEETING – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) has contacted the Council to indicate that it intends to carry out a Statutory Electoral Review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements. The previous review was undertaken in 2002, with the final recommendations being published in October 2003, and whole-Council elections taking place in 2004.

This report recommends to Council the process to be adopted in relation to the completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council Size. Further reports to Council in relation to ward arrangements will be submitted in due course at the appropriate time.

Description of Decision:

To recommend to Council that:

- i) it notes the commencement of the review of the overall composition of the Council and its Ward arrangements by the Commission;
- ii) the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal, in particular, be noted;
- iii) a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group be established of seven members of the Council to assist in the process of developing initially the Council Size Proposal document;
- iv) the terms of reference for the Boundary Review Working Group as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- v) the Chief Executive be authorised to draft the Council Size Proposal document in consultation with the Working Group and submit it for approval to the Council Meeting on 25 January 2023 prior to its submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023; and
- vi) it notes that further reports will be submitted to Council as the review by the Commission progresses to consider the Ward arrangements.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?	Yes
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	N/A
Suggested reason(s) for Decision:	
The review is a periodic review undertaken by the Commission. By developing and putting in place appropriate arrangements within the Council, it will be able to participate in the review process and respond accordingly.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:	
There are no alternative options available. The Council has to participate in the review to be undertaken by the Commission.	
Impacts analysed;	
Equality	N/A
Privacy	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Crime and Disorder	N/A
Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?	Yes
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?	No
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?	N/A

REVIEW OF COUNCIL SIZE AND WARD BOUNDARIES**Report of the Chief Executive****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) has contacted the Council to indicate that it intends to carry out a review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements. The previous review was undertaken in 2002, with the final recommendations being published in October 2003, and whole-Council elections taking place in 2004.

This report recommends to Council the process to be adopted in relation to the completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council Size. Further reports to Council in relation to Ward arrangements will be submitted in due course at the appropriate time.

2.0 Description of Decision

To recommend to Council that:

- i) it notes the commencement of the review of the overall composition of the Council and its Ward arrangements by the Commission;
- ii) the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal, in particular, be noted;
- iii) a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group be established of seven members of the Council to assist in the process of developing initially the Council Size Proposal document;
- iv) the terms of reference for the Boundary Review Working Group as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- v) the Chief Executive be authorised to draft the Council Size Proposal document in consultation with the Boundary Review Working Group and submit it for approval to the Council Meeting on 25 January 2023 prior to its submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023; and
- vi) it notes that further reports will be submitted to Council as the review by the Commission progresses to consider the Ward arrangements.

3.0 Background

The Commission is an independent and impartial, non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing local government ward boundaries in England. The Commission has the task of periodically carrying out Electoral Reviews in all local authorities in England.

In this case, the last review of Council Size and Ward arrangements was undertaken in 2002 to 2003, with the revised boundaries coming into effect in 2004.

In July 2022, the Commission contacted the Council, indicating that it had decided to undertake a review of the Council. The stated purpose of the review is to

consider the number of councillors elected to the Council (the Council size), the names, number and boundaries of the wards, and the number of councillors to be elected to each ward.

The information received from the Commission outlines the review process and timetable, with whole-Council elections following at the next ordinary electoral date to implement any changes. Subsequent local elections would then revert to elections to the Council by thirds as is the case presently.

The purpose of the review is to ensure electoral equality across the City's wards, i.e. they have a proportionate number of electors per ward with the right number of elected members.

The review will principally examine and propose, if considered appropriate and necessary, new electoral arrangements for the Council. These are:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the Council (Council Size)
- The names, number, and boundaries of wards
- The number of councillors to be elected from each ward

Please note this review is separate to the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review.

3.1 The Review Process

There are two distinct parts to the review:

1. **Council Size** - the Commission will decide the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council; and
2. **Ward Arrangements** – the Commission may/will also re-draw ward boundaries so that they meet statutory criteria.

The conclusion made by the Commission regarding the size of the Council will be influenced by the Council's (and/or councillors') submissions during the preliminary phase of the process.

With regard to the Ward arrangements, the Commission will also undertake two phases of public consultation.

The whole review process is set out in the Commission's timetable below.

The Commission have indicated that they anticipate that a Parliamentary Order will be laid in Spring 2024 for the new arrangements, following which 'all out' elections to the new wards will take place in **May 2026**. Following those all out elections in May 2026, the Council would then revert to local elections of members to the Council in thirds as is the case at present.

The Review Timetable

	Involvement		
Activity	Council	Commission	Key Dates
Council Size			
Develop Council Size proposal	Council Political Groups	Officers available for questions	Submission deadline 28 Feb 2023
Commission meeting: on Council Size	Not required	Commission	11 April 2023
Warding Patterns			
Consultation on warding patterns	Council Political Groups General Public	Run consultation, collate and analyse responses.	9 May – 17 July 2023
Commission meeting: on draft recommendations	Not required	Commission	12 Sept 2023
Consultation on draft recommendations	Council Political Groups General Public	Publish draft recommendations. Run consultation, collate and analyse responses.	26 Sept – 4 Dec 2023
Commission meeting: Final Recommendations	Not required	Commission	13 Feb 2024
Publication of Final recommendations	Not required	Commission	27 Feb 2024
Order			
Order laid	Not required	Commission	Spring 2024
Order made	Not required	Commission	Summer 2024
Implementation	Council	Not required	2026

3.2 Next Steps

The Commission has already conducted a briefing session with the Leaders of the political groups and a separate session for all Members of the Council.

In order to meet the timescale set out by the Commission's timetable in relation, in particular, to the submission of the Council Size proposal – no later than 28 February 2023- it is proposed to establish a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group of Members. It is proposed that the Boundary Review Working Group is made up of seven members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat). A draft Terms of Reference for the Boundary Review Working Group is set out at Appendix 1.

It is also proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Boundary Review Working Group, to draft the Council Size submission document for its approval by Council at its meeting in January 2023.

Further reports to Council will be submitted as the Commission's review progresses beyond the considerations of the proposals relating to the Council Size and it begins the process of reviewing the Ward arrangements.

4.0 Financial Implications

There are no additional direct financial implications that arise from this report. The development of the Council Size proposal document will be supported through existing officer time.

5.0 Reasons for Decision

The review is a periodic review undertaken by the Commission. By developing and putting in place appropriate arrangements within the Council, it will be able to participate in the review process and respond accordingly.

6.0 Alternative Options

There are no real alternative options available. The Council has to participate in the review to provide certain information such as property forecasts and data. The Council is invited by the Commission to submit Council Size proposals during the preliminary stage of the review. If the Council did not submit a proposal response then it would mean that the Commission would make its final recommendations without the benefit of the Council's views.

7.0 Background Papers

The Commission's briefing papers to the Council on the process of the Review.

Reports

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2023

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.

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2023

APPOINTMENTS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make a change in the Council's representation to the Key Cities Board and to note and endorse the appointment of Paul Wilson as Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.
- 1.2 The full list of appointments to committees and outside bodies will be published on the Council's website in the Yearbook at <https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/PublicDocuments.aspx> following the meeting.

2.0 Key Cities Board

- 2.1 A request has been received from the Majority Group for 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.

3.0 Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Human Resources Committee in December 2022, Paul Wilson was appointed as Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is accordingly invited to:-
- (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; and
 - (ii) note and endorse the appointment of Paul Wilson as Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

1. Notice of Motion – Environmental Impact of Council Cars

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.

Councillor A. Mullen (Proposer)
Councillor J. Doyle (Secunder)

Signed by:-

Councillor J. Doyle
Councillor A. Mullen

2. Notice of Motion – Replacement wheelie bins

Council notes that the £25 fee for replacing lost or stolen wheelie bins was scrapped in April 2022 for a period of 12 months.

Council believes that:

- (i) axing the charge for lost and stolen bins has been well received by residents
- (ii) the cost of living emergency has deepened since the fee was scrapped owing to the financial impact of the pandemic and surges in the cost of living on local people
- (iii) Spring 2023 is not the right time to re-instate the £25 charge and that replacing lost and stolen wheelie bins should, wherever possible, remain free whilst people are struggling with the cost of living

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to bring forward proposals to extend free replacements for lost and stole wheelie bins beyond 31st March 2023.

Councillor M. Haswell (Proposer)
Councillor J. Potts (Secunder)

Signed by:-

Councillor M. Bond	Councillor P.W.L. Gibson	Councillor S. O'Brien
Councillor M. Crosby	Councillor M. Haswell	Councillor J. Potts
Councillor A. Curtis	Councillor N. Hodson	Councillor G. Smith
Councillor P. Edgeworth	Councillor C. Morrissey	Councillor A. Wood
Councillor H. Fagan	Councillor C. Nicholson	

3. Notice of Motion - Addressing discrimination of cared for children

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 L. Farthing (Proposer)
Councillor J. Price (Secunder)

Signed by:-

Councillor M. Butler	Councillor F. Miller	Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor K. Chequer	Councillor G. Miller	Councillor H. Trueman
Councillor A. Chisnall	Councillor M. Mordey	Councillor J. Usher
Councillor L. Farthing	Councillor J. Price	Councillor P. Walker
Councillor J. Heron	Councillor C. Rowntree	Councillor L. Williams
Councillor M. Herron	Councillor A. Samuels	
Councillor K. Johnston	Councillor I. Scott	

4. Notice of Motion - Dangerous Trees Motion

As a responsible Council, we appreciate that there are numerous trees within the city on Council owned land that are overly large and potentially dangerous should they fall in high winds.

This also includes Trees with invasive root systems which are interfering with building foundations and Footpaths On Public and private Property

We resolve to put in place a continuous programme of tree maintenance to,

1. Inspect trees reported by residents and councillors within 7 days of report
2. Where a tree poses a danger to life or property, it will be removed, with a replacement Low maintenance tree planted in a suitable location within an agreed timescale
3. Priority for the commitments set out at 1 and 2 will be given to elderly and vulnerable residents and those at greatest risk

Councillor P. Donaghy	(Proposer)
Councillor D. McDonough	(Secunder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Donaghy
Councillor D. McDonough

