

CITY HALL,
SUNDERLAND.
14 January 2022.

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 26 JANUARY 2022** 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 last ordinary meeting of the Council held 17 November 2021 (copy attached). | 1 |
| 4. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any). | - |
| 5. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e). | - |
| 6. Covid-19 - Verbal Update by the Leader of the Council | - |
| 7. Citywide approach to carbon reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council | - |
| 8. To consider the Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meeting of the Council held 17 November 2021 (copy attached). | 19 |

9. Reception of Petitions.	-
10. Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 10.	-
11. Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 11.	-
12. Report of the Cabinet (copy attached).	23
13. To consider a report on action taken on petitions (copy attached).	75
14. To consider the following reports:-	79
(i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached).	81
(ii) Approval of Reason for Absence from Meetings - report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	83
15. To consider the attached Motions (copy attached).	85



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/3DV9zLY47_g

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the MONTGOMERY SUITE, STADIUM OF LIGHT, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021 at 4.00pm

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

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

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Butler, PWL Gibson, D MacKnight, McDonough, Mullen, Noble, P Walker and Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Tate.

Minutes

Councillor Peter Gibson referred to the vote recorded on page 8 of the Minutes which showed that 'Gibson, P' had voted both for and against the reference back. He informed the meeting that he had only voted once and that this had been against the motion. The meeting was informed that the 'Gibson, P' shown as voting in favour was Councillor Paul Gibson and that this should have been recorded as 'Gibson, PWL'.

28. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 September 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made and the Members concerned left the meeting during consideration of the item: -

Councillor M. Walker	Item 11(2) - Licensing Act 2003 - Review of Cumulative Impact Assessment	Employee of a Bingo Company and holder of a Gambling Commission Licence
Councillor Hodson	“	A consultee was a close family member

Announcements

Councillor Farthing informed Council of the receipt of the following two awards presented to the Council in respect of its School Meal Service;-

- i) The Green Kitchen Standard – presented by the Soil Association and the Carbon Trust.
- ii) The Food for Life Served Here Bronze Award – presented by the Soil Association.

Covid-19 – Verbal Update by the Leader of the Council

The Mayor invited the Leader to provide a verbal update on the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Leader commented that when he last provided an update in September the city was two months on from the Government's final step in the easing of Covid restrictions, and there was a feeling that things had returned to something like normality, and people had been able to enjoy a really good summer in Sunderland.

The city had hosted world-class events including the British Tour Series cycling event, and the Council had made announcement after announcement in terms of investments and the progress made with its ambitious regeneration plans for the city, all of which were central to ensuring the city and its people recovered from the pandemic in as strong and competitive position as possible.

This progress had continued into the Autumn with the opening of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor Phase 3 linking Wessington Way to the city centre and the Riverside Sunderland site; the successful return of the Festival of Light and Illuminations; and the return of key events celebrating the success and achievements of the city's businesses and organisations.

It went without saying that the virus was very determined and hadn't gone away therefore if the city was to be kept open and moving forward; its businesses open and building back; people going to work, school, college and university; and friends and family free to be with one another, everyone must keep on doing their bit. There was also the very serious imperative for everyone to keep taking responsibility, individually and collectively, to prevent the transmission of the virus, heading into the Winter to protect the NHS and care sector. These vital services and the workforces who provided them, were under enormous pressure.

As expected, the city's health and social care workers across the city were as dedicated as ever to do the best job possible and to provide essential care, treatment and support to those who needed it. Partner organisations were continuing to create joint, innovative solutions to the ever increasing demand on services and resources and the city's community networks and volunteers were still there, working tirelessly as ever, doing whatever they could to support families and individuals.

Local Government continued to shout loud to central Government about the reality of not being out of the woods yet and the fact that ongoing, and increased levels of support, both financial and in terms of policy were going to be needed, to achieve full and proper recovery, and the levelling-up promised. The Leader was delighted to say that Sunderland was being heard and was being recognised as a place and a people who could be central to national recovery, growth and levelling-up. He stated that the Council and its partners wouldn't stop banging the drum and forging compelling plans to secure further Government backing and other public and private sector investment, in order to press ahead with delivering the City Plan and creating a connected, international city with opportunities for all.

The Leader reminded everyone of the need to play their part and pull together at the same time by following current public health guidance and advice for the sake of the more vulnerable members of the city's communities, the health and care sectors and their employees, and its businesses, so that everybody in Sunderland could look forward to a better festive season this year. He reiterated that getting as many people as possible fully vaccinated, was the city's best defence against Covid and pleaded with everyone in the city, to please do the right thing, for ourselves, our loved ones and everyone around us.

In conclusion, he stated "We've built up a fantastic momentum with the city's recovery from an extremely challenging period in everyone's lives, so let's keep it going and look forward to a great 2022 in Sunderland." The Leader thanked the Mayor for receiving the update.

29. RESOLVED that the update from the Leader be noted.

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

The Deputy Leader provided an update on the ongoing progress being made in relation to the city's goal of being carbon neutral by 2030 and reducing its carbon emissions. The Deputy Leader highlighted key progress and development work that had taken place in recent months which included:-

- The first young people's advisory group meeting which took place on the 4th of October 2021. The young people were asked to choose their own group name – and renamed the group 'Environmental, Green and Sustainable (EGS)' and also voted for the new city-wide hashtag #WearSustainable. Two representatives from EGS attended the 2030 Shadow Board and got a great response from partners across the city as they shared details of their first meeting and what they would like to learn about and develop at future meetings.

- The selection of Sunderland as one of 11 cities to take part in the European Covenant of Mayors peer learning programme. In October, Sunderland hosted an online 4-day event with Vitoria Gasteiz from Spain and Parma in Italy to share

learning and expertise. Topics discussed included transport, energy and green infrastructure, and Sunderland as the designated expert city, led discussions on community and partner engagement, which culminated in the city's European partners participating alongside young people's representatives in October's city-wide 2030 Low Carbon Shadow Board's meeting.

- The circulation of a COP26 Grant opportunity to Sunderland schools to encourage young people to design and get involved in a project that helped tackle climate change. A total of £2,600 had been given out to schools who applied for this grant across 6 Secondary Schools and 2 Primary Schools.
- Sunderland had recently joined the Cities Race to Zero campaign, a global campaign run by the COP26 presidency, to become part of a coalition to build momentum around the shift towards a decarbonised economy; and had also recently joined the Race to Resilience campaign, to strengthen the Council's commitments towards encouraging global climate action as well as to build the resilience of the city against climate hazards.
- The pursuit of external funding to support the Council in its delivery e.g. the award of £45,000 from DEFRA's Local Authority Treescapes Fund. The Council had also just been awarded £20 million through the Levelling-up Fund to support the development of a Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy (known as HICSA) in the Riverside Sunderland area. This would enable Sunderland to build the skills-base needed to upgrade the city's homes, using modern construction methods, low carbon, renewable energy and smart technology. The funding would also enable the creation of new sustainable communities in Sunnyside and on Riverside Sunderland.

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

30. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Reception of Petitions

31. 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 urging the Council to support the reopening of Pallion Shipyard.

Councillor Edgeworth – Petition asking the Council to make free domestic rodent control permanent and to put in place a long-term plan to tackle rat infestations in public places and local parks.

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. Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 – 2025/2026

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) 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 2022/2023;
- Set out the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/2023 to 2025/2026;
- Set out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2022/2023; and
- Sought a recommendation to Council for the approval of the updated Council Capital Strategy.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Council Approval was required for changes to the Council Capital Strategy and an extract from the report on the Capital Strategy Update – 2021/2022 was attached.

The report was also considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 14 October 2020.

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

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

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

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

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the Council's Capital Strategy.

2. Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2020 – March 2021

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on the Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2020 – March 2021. The report gave an overview of the management of health and safety at work within the Council.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to note the content of the Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2020 to March 2021.

3. Update to Constitution – Article 2, Article 15 and Council Procedure Rules

That they had given consideration to a report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached) to seek agreement to recommend to Council proposed changes to the Constitution with respect to:-

- a) clarifying the position of Members appointed to Committees and Sub-Committees between re-election and the date of the Annual Council meeting;
- b) authorising certain additional Officers to attest to the application of the Authority's Seal on deeds, agreements and other documents;
- c) limiting the number of questions on notice at Council meetings to three from each political group per meeting (excluding urgent questions); and
- d) accepting the service of notices of motion electronically.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to:

1. approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution as set out in the report and at Appendix 1, 2 and 3; and
2. authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly, including the making of any consequential amendments, stylistic or typographical changes, to ensure consistency throughout the Constitution.

4. Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Principles

That they had considered a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods (copy attached) on a revision to appendix three under the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, ("the Act") following the consultation exercise.

At its Meeting held on 6 September 2021 the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, having considered a report concerning the outcome of the consultation exercise on the Council's draft Statement of Principles under the Act, resolved as follows:-

That the contents of the report be noted and approval be given to the submission of the draft Statement of Principles to Council for approval under the relevant provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 at its Meeting on 17 November, 2021.

On 12 October 2021, the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee considered a Report concerning the outcome of the consultation exercise on the Council's draft Statement of Principles and resolved that the outcome be noted and agreed.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the Statement of Principles in accordance with the Act set out at Appendix 3 of the report.

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.

32. 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 2020/21

That they had given consideration to a report by the Assistant Director of Business and Property Services (copy attached) on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2020/21, demonstrating how they had fulfilled their delegated responsibilities.

The Committee recommended Council to note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2020/21.

The Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, duly seconded by Councillor N. McKnight, moved the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and accordingly it was:-

33. RESOLVED that the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2020/21 be noted.

Action taken on petitions

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

(i) Petition – Chester Road – Pedestrian Crossing – Presented by Councillor Edgeworth on 23 June 2021

As stated in the petition there was a subway located between Hastings Hill and Pennywell close to the new Aldi Development that ran beneath Chester Road providing a vehicle free, safe and grade separated crossing facility.

The speed limit on the A183 was recently reduced to 30 mph along the dual carriageway and a signalised junction to the Chester Gate housing development installed which helped to slow vehicles on the road and provide an additional crossing facility for residents and users at the location.

The lighting in the subway was replaced last year with new LED ECO SAFELIGHT fittings designed to provide a robust lighting solution achieving the required lighting standard for the subway. The lighting units were maintained, inspected and cleaned every 2 years however the contractor would respond if any are damaged in the meantime.

In terms of surrounding street lighting, there had been no reports of outages recently, the units were checked at night monthly with faults being responded to within 5 working days. The only exception to this would be if there was an electrical supply fault requiring intervention from Northern Power Grid.

Officers were currently reviewing all subways across the City which would include the subway on Chester Road. Any changes considered would be subject to the consultation process. This petition would be forwarded to the relevant officers for consideration when they undertook the subway review.

Report on 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, which advised that there were no such instances since the last report.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved the report.

34. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report 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:

35. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Councillor Nicholson be appointed to the seat on the Planning and Highways Committee (East) held by the former UKIP Group;
- (ii) the appointment of Councillor Scott to the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel in place of Councillor Rowntree be approved;
- (iii) the appointment of an elected member representative to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group be deferred to a future meeting;
- (iv) the appointment of Councillor Scott to Hetton Town Trust in place of Councillor Rowntree be approved;
- (v) the appointment of Councillor Scott to the Samuel Dobson Trust in place of Councillor Rowntree be approved; and

- (vi) the appointments of an elected member representative to the Samuel Dobson Trust and to the Victoria House Trust previously held by former Councillor Turner, be deferred to a future meeting.

Notices of Motion

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rules 11.1 and 14.1 so far as they required the signing and delivering of a notice of motion to be carried out in person.

36. RESOLVED that the suspension of the relevant Council Procedure Rules be agreed.

(i) Addressing Government Failure to Reduce Inequality

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree moved the following motion:-

“This Council notes that since 2010 successive Conservative led governments have

- failed to address inequalities in society, noting that levels of deprivation and poverty have significantly increased since the introduction of the 2010 equality act.
- continually refused to enact section 1 of the Equality Act that would place a legal duty on governments to address these inequalities and reverse this rise in poverty and deprivation.

This Council now requires to further provide leadership in supporting struggling families in this City and therefore resolves, with immediate effect:

- to voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty that Conservative Led Governments refuse to enact, ensuring that when making decisions of a strategic nature it will act in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from disadvantage.

That in adopting this duty the council will:

- incorporate poverty and socio-economic disadvantages, into equality impact assessments, equality plans, and the wider decision-making process and all strategic planning.
- use a range of quantitative and qualitative data to inform the implementation of this duty and develop clear success criteria to measure the impact in reducing levels of inequality.
- recognise the value of engaging with struggling families directly impacted by these inequalities, working together to find new and sustainable ways to support them and reduce poverty.
- in addition, work with stakeholders and voluntary/community sector organisations, to build awareness and understanding of this new duty adopted by this Council.
- Receive reports on progress on a six-monthly basis.

Councillor Hodson, duly seconded by Councillor Morrissey moved the following amendment:-

In the first bullet point, delete the word “since” and replace it with the word “despite”.

Delete the third bullet point and replace it with the following two bullet points:

- to voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty, as stated in Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, which Conservative led Governments have refused to enact.
- to ensure strategic decisions are designed to reduce and/or mitigate the inequalities of outcome which result from disadvantage.

At the end of the final bullet point, delete the words “on progress on a six-monthly basis.” and insert the words: “on a six-monthly basis on progress in achieving clearly-defined and actionable targets both for this new duty and for the nine existing protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act of 2010.”

So that the amended motion would read:

This Council notes that since 2010 successive Conservative led governments have

- failed to address inequalities in society, noting that levels of deprivation and poverty have significantly increased despite the introduction of the 2010 Equality Act.
- continually refused to enact section 1 of the Equality Act that would place a legal duty on governments to address these inequalities and reverse this rise in poverty and deprivation.

This Council now requires to further provide leadership in supporting struggling families in this City and therefore resolves, with immediate effect:

- to voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty, as stated in Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, which Conservative-led Governments have refused to enact.
- to ensure strategic decisions are designed to reduce and/or mitigate the inequalities of outcome which result from disadvantage.

That in adopting this duty the council will:

- incorporate poverty and socio-economic disadvantages, into equality impact assessments, equality plans, and the wider decision-making process and all strategic planning.
- use a range of quantitative and qualitative data to inform the implementation of this duty and develop clear success criteria to measure the impact in reducing levels of inequality.
- recognise the value of engaging with struggling families directly impacted by these inequalities, working together to find new and sustainable ways to support them and reduce poverty.
- in addition, work with stakeholders and voluntary/community sector organisations, to build awareness and understanding of this new duty adopted by this Council.
- Receive reports on a six-monthly basis on progress in achieving clearly defined and actionable targets both for this new duty and for the nine existing protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act of 2010.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried with 51 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Bewick	Haswell	Nicholson	Speding
	Blackburn	Heron	O'Brien	Stewart
	Chequer	Hodson	Potts	Taylor
	Crosby	Jenkins	Price	Thornton
	Dodds	Johnston, K	Rowntree	Trueman, D
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Essl	Laws	Scanlan	Tye
	Fagan	MacKnight, N	Scott	Walker, M
	Farthing	Mason-Gage	Smith, A	Warne
	Fletcher	McClennan	Smith, G	Williams
	Foster	Miller, F	Smith, P	Wilson
	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Snowdon, D	Wood, A
	Gibson, P	Morrissey	Snowdon, DE	

And 17 voting against

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	Johnston, S	Reed
	Blackett	Dunn	Leadbitter	Wood, P
	Burnicle	Greener	Mann	
	Dixon	Hartnack	McKeith	
	Donaghy	Howe	Peacock	

The Mayor read the new Substantive Motion.

Councillor Hartnack, duly seconded by Councillor Doyle moved the following amendment to the new substantive motion:-

Delete from “This Council notes...” to the end of the second bullet point and insert “The Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that, at present, in England childhood poverty, pension poverty, low income household inequality and working-age adult poverty are all lower than they were at their peak under the last Labour government.”

Add to the end of this motion: “This Council regrets the increases in Council Tax which the Chief Finance Officer has previously noted could disadvantage those on low incomes, in his equality impact assessments of Labour’s budgets.”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 17 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	Johnston, S	Reed
	Blackett	Dunn	Leadbitter	Wood, P
	Burnicle	Greener	Mann	
	Dixon	Hartnack	McKeith	
	Donaghy	Howe	Peacock	

And 51 members voting against:-

Councillors	Bewick	Haswell	Nicholson	Speding
	Blackburn	Heron	O'Brien	Stewart
	Chequer	Hodson	Potts	Taylor
	Crosby	Jenkins	Price	Thornton
	Dodds	Johnston, K	Rowntree	Trueman, D
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Essl	Laws	Scanlan	Tye
	Fagan	MacKnight, N	Scott	Walker, M
	Farthing	Mason-Gage	Smith, A	Warne
	Fletcher	McClennan	Smith, G	Williams
	Foster	Miller, F	Smith, P	Wilson
	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Snowdon, D	Wood, A
	Gibson, P	Morrissey	Snowdon, DE	

The Mayor then put the Substantive Motion to the meeting and upon being put to the vote the motion was carried with 51 Members voting in favour :-

Councillors	Bewick	Haswell	Nicholson	Speding
	Blackburn	Heron	O'Brien	Stewart
	Chequer	Hodson	Potts	Taylor
	Crosby	Jenkins	Price	Thornton
	Dodds	Johnston, K	Rowntree	Trueman, D
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Essl	Laws	Scanlan	Tye
	Fagan	MacKnight, N	Scott	Walker, M
	Farthing	Mason-Gage	Smith, A	Warne
	Fletcher	McClennan	Smith, G	Williams
	Foster	Miller, F	Smith, P	Wilson
	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Snowdon, D	Wood, A
	Gibson, P	Morrissey	Snowdon, DE	

And 17 voting against:-

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	Johnston, S	Reed
	Blackett	Dunn	Leadbitter	Wood, P
	Burnicle	Greener	Mann	
	Dixon	Hartnack	McKeith	
	Donaghy	Howe	Peacock	

It was therefore:-

37. **RESOLVED** that:-

This Council notes that since 2010 successive Conservative led governments have

- failed to address inequalities in society, noting that levels of deprivation and poverty have significantly increased despite the introduction of the 2010 Equality Act.
- continually refused to enact section 1 of the Equality Act that would place a legal duty on governments to address these inequalities and reverse this rise in poverty and deprivation.

This Council now requires to further provide leadership in supporting struggling families in this City and therefore resolves, with immediate effect:

- to voluntarily adopt the socio-economic duty, as stated in Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, which Conservative-led Governments have refused to enact.
- to ensure strategic decisions are designed to reduce and/or mitigate the inequalities of outcome which result from disadvantage.

That in adopting this duty the council will:

- incorporate poverty and socio-economic disadvantages, into equality impact assessments, equality plans, and the wider decision-making process and all strategic planning.
- use a range of quantitative and qualitative data to inform the implementation of this duty and develop clear success criteria to measure the impact in reducing levels of inequality.

- recognise the value of engaging with struggling families directly impacted by these inequalities, working together to find new and sustainable ways to support them and reduce poverty.
- in addition, work with stakeholders and voluntary/community sector organisations, to build awareness and understanding of this new duty adopted by this Council.
- Receive reports on a six-monthly basis on progress in achieving clearly defined and actionable targets both for this new duty and for the nine existing protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act of 2010.

The Mayor referred to Paragraph 8.1 of the Council's rules of procedure and advised that the meeting had now extended beyond its permitted 3 hours. He informed Council that he would allow a further 30 minutes to allow as much business to be transacted as possible.

(ii) Automated External Defibrillators

Councillor Crosby, duly seconded by Councillor Edgeworth moved the following motion:-

“Council notes that on average 30,000 people each year suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and 20% of these incidents occur in public spaces. Council further notes only 10% of victims of cardiac arrests survive when the incident occurs outside hospital.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can play a significant role in saving the lives of people who suffer heart attacks in public. It is estimated that a shock from an AED, alongside CPR treatment, increases survival rates to 75-80%.

Council notes that, though there are public defibrillators in various places across the city including some council premises and assets, there are gaps in the provision of publicly accessible AEDs and at present there is no holistic mapping system listing all AEDs across Sunderland, Washington, Houghton and Hetton.

Therefore Council agrees to:

- Compile and maintain a list, and an interactive map, of all public defibrillators in the Sunderland City Council area including those in non-council premises.
- Review and, where appropriate, increase the provision of defibrillators across all council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall.
- Bring a report to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee no later than February 2022 detailing a plan to roll out more Automated External Defibrillators across the city, and to produce and maintain a fully interactive mapping system to locate all public defibrillators in the Sunderland City Council area.”

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree duly seconded by Councillor K. Johnston moved the following amendment:-

Third Paragraph

After Washington delete “, Houghton and Hetton”

Add “and Coalfield.”

Bullet points

Delete first bullet point

Final bullet point delete from word “city”

Add new bullet point

“Ensure all current and future defibrillators on council land and property are registered with The National Defibrillator Network, which is supported by the British Heart Foundation, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, Resuscitation Council UK, and St John Ambulance.”

So that the amended motion would read:

Council notes that on average 30,000 people each year suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and 20% of these incidents occur in public spaces. Council further notes only 10% of victims of cardiac arrests survive when the incident occurs outside hospital.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can play a significant role in saving the lives of people who suffer heart attacks in public. It is estimated that a shock from an AED, alongside CPR treatment, increases survival rates to 75-80%.

Council notes that, though there are public defibrillators in various places across the city including some council premises and assets, there are gaps in the provision of publicly accessible AEDs and at present there is no holistic mapping system listing all AEDs across Sunderland, Washington and Coalfield.

Therefore Council agrees to:

- Review and, where appropriate, increase the provision of defibrillators across all council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall.
- Bring a report to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee no later than February 2022 detailing a plan to roll out more Automated External Defibrillators across the city.
- Ensure all current and future defibrillators on council land and property are registered with the National Defibrillator Network, which is supported by the British Heart Foundation, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, Resuscitation Council UK, and St John Ambulance.

Upon being moved, the amendment was declared to be carried unanimously. The Mayor then put the new substantive motion to the meeting and accordingly it was: -

38. RESOLVED unanimously that:-

Council notes that on average 30,000 people each year suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and 20% of these incidents occur in public spaces. Council further notes only 10% of victims of cardiac arrests survive when the incident occurs outside hospital.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can play a significant role in saving the lives of people who suffer heart attacks in public. It is estimated that a shock from an AED, alongside CPR treatment, increases survival rates to 75-80%.

Council notes that, though there are public defibrillators in various places across the city including some council premises and assets, there are gaps in the provision of publicly accessible AEDs and at present there is no holistic mapping system listing all AEDs across Sunderland, Washington and Coalfield.

Therefore Council agrees to:

- Review and, where appropriate, increase the provision of defibrillators across all council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall.
- Bring a report to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee no later than February 2022 detailing a plan to roll out more Automated External Defibrillators across the city.
- Ensure all current and future defibrillators on council land and property are registered with the National Defibrillator Network, which is supported by the British Heart Foundation, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, Resuscitation Council UK, and St John Ambulance.

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

(Signed) H TRUEMAN,
Mayor.

***Motions on Notice
Outstanding from the
Last Ordinary Meeting of
the Council***

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned motions which are outstanding from the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 17 November 2021:-

1. Events on Council Land

Council recognises the environmental damage and harm to both domestic and wild animals that can be done by balloons, paper lanterns and extremely loud fireworks.

In recent months, Gateshead Council and North Tyneside Council have taken action to limit the harms to the environment and to animals caused by these.

It is time for Sunderland City Council to take similar action.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ban balloon and lantern releases on Council land
- Request a report to Cabinet on appropriate plots of Council land that can be transformed into a memorial meadow, where residents can plant seeds/flowers in memory of loved ones, and ask that Portfolio Holder to establish at least one memorial meadow in the city
- Enforce the use of low noise fireworks for all events on Council land, by default, except in exceptional circumstances, when the Portfolio Holder should be required to sign off on the decision to use fireworks that are not low noise.

Councillor P. Mann (Proposer)
Councillor A. Mullen (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Donaghy
Councillor G. Peacock
Councillor J. Doyle
Councillor L. Reed
Councillor M. Dixon

2. Establishment of Shadow Young People's Consultation Board (SYPCB)

Council resolves to establish a Shadow Young People's Consultation Board, through which the Council and its leadership will consult with young people on important issues to them and on key areas of the Council's operations, such as budget setting.

This Board will also invite partners such as TfC, CCG, Nexus and others to consult with young people on what they are doing in their area of service provision to enable young people to share what they think they can be improved upon and what changes or developments they wish to see.

This Board will consist of young people, councillors and leadership of all political parties on the Council, working together to improve young people's representation in the city.

Councillor Joshua McKeith (Proposer)
Councillor Sam Johnston (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor C. Burnicle
Councillor M. Hartnack
Councillor R. Dunn
Councillor P. Wood

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Sunderland City Plan 2019-2030 – Annual Assurance Process

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) which details the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.

At the meeting of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 9 December 2021, Members recommended that some of the components of the *Carbon Neutral City Council by 2030*, and *Adult Mental Health Strategy Delivered (in 2026)* timeline activities be inserted into the timeline in the intervening years. This would help demonstrate progress towards completion of these activities and also their relationship with the delivery of other objectives.

Where possible, this additional detail and contributing activities will be added to the timeline in advance of publication of the final, approved version. No entries will be removed from the timeline as set out in the attached draft plan, in the process.

Accordingly, the Cabinet, having considered the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process, recommended to Council to approve the proposed updates to the City Plan and Indicative Timeline (as an Article 4 Plan under the Constitution).

2. Council Tax Base 2022/2023

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2022/2023 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2022/2023 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (a) The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2022/2023 be approved; and
- (b) 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 2021/2022, shall be 72,161 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 4,052.

3. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) The current LCTSS for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, be amended from 1 April 2022 to incorporate any legislative changes to the prescribed requirements for the Scheme (the Scheme) but that it be not otherwise revised or replaced; and
- (ii) The approved LCTSS for the financial year 2022/2023 be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

4. Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached) on the Members' Allowances Scheme for the next financial year.

The Independent Remuneration Panel has considered the number and level of allowances currently paid to Members and its report is attached as Appendix 1. The Panel has recommended that the basic allowance be increased by 2% to £8,536 with effect from 1 April 2022. As the NJC pay award for 2021/22 has not yet been confirmed, with the current offer by employers of 1.75% not having been accepted by Trades Unions the proposed increase is in line with the assumption included in the Council's medium term financial plan for 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.

Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel but considered that in light of the ongoing pandemic and the financial pressures being faced by residents in the City, the scheme should remain unchanged.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council:-

- (i) to note the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (ii) to approve that the scheme of allowances remain unchanged for the following financial year, as it was considered that there should not be any increase to members' allowances at this time, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the financial pressures being faced by residents in the City.

CABINET – 11 JANUARY 2022

SUNDERLAND CITY PLAN 2019-2030 – ANNUAL ASSURANCE PROCESS

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report submits for Cabinet's consideration details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and recommend the proposed updates to the Plan and Timeline to Council for approval.

3.0 Context

- 3.1 The City Plan is the council's sole strategic plan. It is an Article 4 Plan subject to approval by Full Council.
- 3.2 The City Plan and accompanying Indicative Timeline cover the period 2019-2030 and describes the Challenges, Themes and Commitments for the regeneration, growth and recovery of the city post the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.3 Following the City Plan's and Indicative Timeline's initial publication in 2019 it was intended that annual reviews would be undertaken of both. The first review took place last year and resulted in the revisions included within the current versions on the council's website.
- 3.4 The first such review was undertaken last year as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic started to become apparent and resulted in revisions that are included within the current version of the City Plan, including:
- The inclusion of a Covid-19 specific Challenge
 - Refinements to the wording of other Challenges
 - References to Smart City to recognise the nationally significant work being undertaken
 - Refinements to the wording of the Commitments
 - The updating of the Indicative Timeline of activities through to 2030

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 Given the continuing emerging impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and other related socio-economic and structural changes impacting on the city, evidence has been collated to determine whether changes need to be made to the City Plan and Indicative Timeline this year, including:
- The council's quarterly performance reporting process
 - Responses to quarterly performance reporting to Scrutiny
 - Specialist analysis and considerations from council services and city partners
 - Analysis of wider socio-economic, demographic and deprivation data and intelligence.

- 4.2 Input from city partners is an addition to the process this year and going forward will help evidence more, for residents and stakeholders, how collective progress is being made towards achieving the City Plan vision.
- 4.3 Following analysis of the evidence, the majority of the City Plan remains relevant. But in considering the ‘Challenges’ and given the significant, current focus on tackling global climate change, it is proposed that a related Challenge to support the council’s and city’s commitments in respect of achieving carbon neutrality is included:
- “Sunderland will play its role in tackling the global challenge of climate change, working together across the city to be carbon neutral by 2040”*
- 4.4 It is further proposed to amend the ‘commitment’ under the Healthy Smart City theme as follows:
- Current: *a city with great transport and travel links*
- Proposed: *great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all*
- 4.5 The analysis also indicates that the Indicative Timeline requires updating to reflect the breadth and current status of key projects in the city that will contribute to delivery of the Plan.
- 4.6 At the meeting of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 9 December 2021, members recommended that some of the components of the *Carbon Neutral City Council by 2030*, and *Adult Mental Health Strategy Delivered (in 2026)* timeline activities be inserted into the timeline in the intervening years. This would help demonstrate progress towards completion of these activities and also their relationship with the delivery of other objectives.
- 4.7 Where possible, this additional detail and contributing activities will be added to timeline in advance of publication of the final, approved version. No entries will be removed from the timeline as set out in the attached draft plan, in the process.
- 4.8 The draft updated City Plan 2019-2030 and Indicative Timeline are attached to this report at Appendix 1.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Production of a corporate plan is required under the council’s Constitution, as an Article 4 Plan.
- 5.2 The City Plan and Indicative Timeline are considered to fulfil the role of a corporate plan for the period 2019-2030 as the primary statement of the council’s and the city’s strategic direction and key priorities.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Alternative Options considered and rejected as part of the City Plan assurance process were:

Option 1. Do Nothing: This option was not considered appropriate. Evolving circumstances emphasise the need for the City Plan and Indicative Timeline to be the subject of an assurance process in order that they are fit for purpose to express the council's strategic direction and intentions for the years 2022-2030.

Option 2. Develop a new City Plan: This option was not considered appropriate. The City Plan and Indicative Timeline are intended as the long-term primary statement of the council's and the city's strategic direction and key priorities in the context of evolving circumstances.

7.0 Impact Analysis

Equalities - The City Plan and Indicative Timeline form the basis for how promoting equality and reducing inequalities is fundamental to council's approach. Further to this the City Plan and Indicative Timeline are subject to Equalities Analysis, through the delivery activities underpinning it, which will be subject to Equality Analyses at the appropriate stage of their development.

Sustainability - The City Plan and Indicative Timeline are subject to a Sustainability Analysis, through the delivery activities underpinning it, which will be subject to Sustainability Analyses at the appropriate stage of their development

8.0 Other Considerations/Consultations

Co-operative Values – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the “Cooperative Council”.

“Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions.”

As the council's sole strategic plan and the key means of articulating and communicating the council's priorities and direction in leading the citywide response to the key challenges impacting on Sunderland, the City Plan and Indicative Timeline lie at the heart of the council's approach as a “Co-operative Council”.

Financial Implications – Any financial implications arising as a result of actions set out in the City Plan and Indicative Timeline can be met through existing budget provision or will be included within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as appropriate, and subject to the annual approval process.

Legal Implications – The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted to ensure that correct process is followed for the formal adoption of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline as part of the council's Policy Framework under Article 4 of the Constitution.

Policy Implications – The development of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process has been coordinated by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

The assurance process has been developed and implemented in conjunction with the Chief Officer Group, the Cabinet and the Sunderland Partnership.

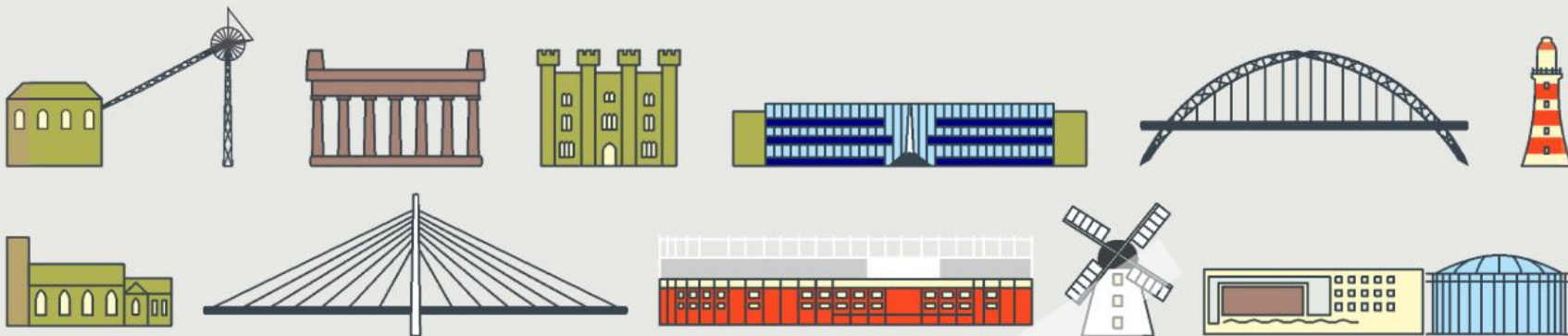
9.0 List of Appendices

Appendix: City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” and Indicative Timeline

10.0 Background Papers

City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process contributions and analysis.

Appendix 1: Draft Updated City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” and Indicative Timeline



SUNDERLAND 2019-2030

DEVELOPING OUR CITY PLAN

**Our
Challenges**



**Our
Vision**



**Our
Themes**



OUR CHALLENGES

The city and its residents emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic in a strong and competitive position



OUR CHALLENGES

Health and wellbeing outcomes are significantly improved



OUR CHALLENGES

Residents' skills and qualifications enable them to secure good jobs matching the needs of employers in the city's key sectors

OUR CHALLENGES

Sunderland offers the opportunities that families and individuals need to achieve their ambitions



OUR CHALLENGES

Sunderland City Centre will drive transformational economic growth with Riverside Sunderland demonstrating clearly our investment ambition

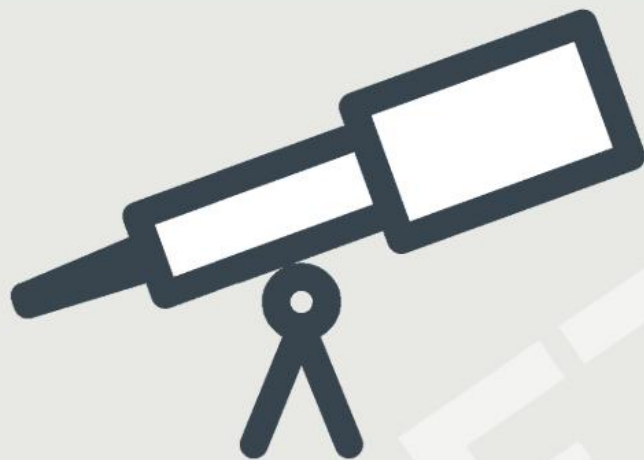


OUR CHALLENGES

Families are resilient and resourceful to respond to challenges and achieve the best possible outcomes for their children

OUR CHALLENGES

Sunderland will play its role in tackling the global challenge of climate change, working together across the city to be carbon neutral by 2040



OUR VISION

**By 2030 Sunderland will be
a connected, international city
with opportunities for all**

OUR THEMES



**A DYNAMIC
SMART CITY**



**A HEALTHY
SMART CITY**



**A VIBRANT
SMART CITY**



A DYNAMIC SMART CITY

by 2030 we will have:

- a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- more and better jobs
- more local people with better qualifications and skills
- a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities
- more and better housing



A HEALTHY SMART CITY

by 2030 we will have:

- reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- people enjoying independent lives
- great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all
- a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood



A VIBRANT SMART CITY

by 2030 we will have:

- more resilient people
- more people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods
- more residents participating in their communities
- more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- Increase in economic activity at the Port
- On-site development of Sunderland Station
- New City Hall opens on Riverside Sunderland
- Roll out of 5G city-wide
- SSTC3 (Northern Spire to City Centre) opens
- Increased business take-up of low carbon initiatives
- New primary school opens
- Commission new domestic abuse services model
- Deliver Sunderland Covid-19 Health Inequalities Action Plan
- Deliver connected, automated logistics project
- Deliver Safer Streets (including female safety)

- 2,000 new office jobs
- Heat and power network in the city centre progressing
- New 4* hotel
- More resilient families in Sunderland
- More local people benefitting from a stronger economy
- Increase in the number and strength of creative and cultural businesses
- Sunderland's heritage collections, archives and buildings enjoyed by

residents and safeguarded for future generations

- Deliver Sunderland Future Living Expo 2023
- Culture House cultural hub and library opens at Riverside Sunderland
- Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy opens at Riverside Sunderland
- First Early Adopter New T Level qualifications awarded
- New national/international events

- Adult Health Mental Health Strategy delivered
- Additional low carbon affordable homes built



- Better walking and cycling routes linking communities to riverside and seafront and green spaces
- Reduction in smoking in the city
- More people physically active
- Improvement in household recycling rates
- More people enjoying independent lives
- Launch new Domestic Abuse

Services Model

- Complete development of Hillthorn Business Park Phase 1
- The Yard business hub opens
- Digital Catapult affordable warmth testbed delivered
- World class music events staged in the city
- Continued Advanced Digital Infrastructure Deployment



- Sunderland Station Southern Entrance Open
- New national/international events including British Triathlon Super Series
- New purpose-built premises for Sunningdale School opens
- Replacement Hetton Primary School opens



- The gap between average wages in the city and regional average wages will be reduced
- Sunderland recognised as a cultural destination of choice
- Key housing sites developed
- Better transport links between Washington and the City Centre and other areas
- Open high level pedestrian/cycleway smart bridge linking Vaux and Sheepfolds
- Changing Places project for people with extra needs complete
- New Eye Hospital opens on Riverside Sunderland



- Sunderland will be a more dynamic, healthier and vibrant city
- Sunderland will be a Real Living Wage city
- Carbon neutral City Council 2030

CABINET – 11 JANUARY 2022

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2022/2023

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2022/2023 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2022/2023 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 2022/2023 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 2022/2023, shall be 72,161 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 4,052.

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 2022/2023 Local Council Tax Support Scheme is set out elsewhere on today's agenda. The Tax Base of the Council for 2022/2023 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 2,116 with an increase in respect of Hetton Town Council of 249. The increase is primarily due to an anticipated reduced uptake of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme during 2022/2023 compared with that assumed within the estimate of the Council Tax Base for the current year and also increases in house building 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 apply 98.0% for 2022/2023.

- 4.4 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Council's Tax Base is: 'A' 73,633.67 x 'B' 98.0% = 72,161
(for comparison the previous year's Tax Base was 70,045)

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' 4,134.70 x 'B' 98.0% = 4,052
(for comparison the previous year's Tax base was 3,803).

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

											Appendix 1
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	207.00	77,683.00	18,874.00	17,156.00	9,160.00	3,387.00	1,141.00	657.00	22.00	128,287
Total Discount	Item Q	(14.00)	(9,820.50)	(1,761.25)	(1,204.50)	(482.25)	(159.50)	(56.50)	(52.75)	(4.00)	(13,555.25)
Premium Factor	Item E	0	767	76	32	27	9	12	4	8	935
Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts	Item J	0	12	340	174	166	66	18	10	1	787
Council Tax Support Estimate	Item Z	(41.35)	(20,066.97)	(1,894.26)	(753.61)	(193.35)	(57.00)	(9.14)	(6.77)	0.00	(23,022.45)
Adjusted number of dwellings		151.65	48,574.53	15,634.49	15,403.89	8,677.40	3,245.50	1,105.36	611.48	27.00	93,431.30
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	84.26	32,383.02	12,160.16	13,692.35	8,677.40	3,966.72	1,596.63	1,019.13	54.00	73,633.67
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		82.57	31,735.36	11,916.96	13,418.50	8,503.85	3,887.39	1,564.70	998.75	52.92	72,161.00
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	12.00	4,678.00	1,329.00	704.00	366.00	126.00	55.00	24.00	1.00	7,295
Total Discount	Item Q	(1.75)	(583.40)	(112.25)	(40.50)	(20.75)	(7.50)	(4.25)	(2.00)	0.00	(772.40)
Premium Factor	Item E	0	54	3	0	4	0	2	0	1	64
Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts	Item J	0	0	67	30	25	8	0	0	1	131
Council Tax Support Estimate	Item Z	(2.19)	(1,216.37)	(74.39)	(18.06)	(10.88)	(2.99)	0.00	(0.68)	0.00	(1,325.56)
Adjusted number of dwellings		8.06	2,932.23	1,212.36	675.44	363.37	123.51	52.75	21.32	3.00	5,392.04
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	4.48	1,954.83	942.95	600.39	363.37	150.96	76.19	35.53	6.00	4,134.70
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		4.39	1,915.73	924.09	588.38	356.10	147.94	74.67	34.82	5.88	4,052.00

CABINET MEETING –11 JANUARY 2022**LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES****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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that:
- (i) The current LCTSS for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, be amended from 1st April 2022 to incorporate any legislative changes to the prescribed requirements for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (the Scheme) but that it be not otherwise revised or replaced; and
 - (ii) The approved LCTSS for the financial year 2022/2023 be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services 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 rules and to make the LCTSS more efficient to administer and easier for the customer to understand.

- 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.

5. Proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme

- 5.1 Following the successful 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 (DLUHC).
- 5.5 The main features of the proposed scheme for the 2022/2023 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 2022/23.

7. Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 The Council must have its LCTSS approved by 11th March 2022, and the design of the scheme impacts upon the calculation of the council tax base which is considered elsewhere on today's agenda.
- 7.2 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.

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 Neighbourhoods 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 2022/23

Date: 07/12/2021

Version Number: v1

Equality Analysis completed by:

Name/Job title:

Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager)

Loraine Nelson (Benefits Manager)

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name/Job title:

Paul Wilson (Assistant 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 for 2019/20, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 continued with a reduction in Council Tax Support by 8.5% for all working age claimants (e.g working age on lowest income paid £1.44 per week (single people), and £1.93 per week (couples/families),

The council must approve its Local Council Tax Support Scheme by 11 March 2022. In line with reviewing the scheme, it is proposed that the existing scheme **continues to apply** for the year commencing 1st April 2022. Subject to approval by 11th March 2022, the scheme will come into force on 1st April 2022.

The scheme will be reviewed each year and any impacts or unintended consequences will be assessed and reviewed when considering the scheme for 2023/24.

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 32,712 of which 12,338 are pensioners and 20,374 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 Assistant Director of Local Finance

The proposal makes no changes to the current system and is to continue for 2022/23.

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	Neutral	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 2022	Consultation exercise / workshops with the residents of Sunderland

CABINET

11 JANUARY 2022

**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL AND MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES
SCHEME - 2022/2023**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

Purpose of report

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

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 Scheme for 2022 / 2023.

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 The Panel has considered the number and level of allowances payable to Members and its report is shown in the Appendix. The Panel has recommended that the basic allowance be increased by 2% to £8,536 with effect from 1 April 2022. As the NJC pay award for 2021/22 has not yet been confirmed, with the current offer by employers of 1.75% not having been accepted by Trades Unions the proposed increase is in line with the assumption included in the Council's medium term financial plan for 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.

Reasons for decision

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

Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2022/2023, as this is a statutory requirement.

Financial Implications

- 6.1 If the Panel's recommendations are approved, the additional cost in 2022/2023 of £12,554 will be met from contingencies and included within the Council's revenue budget for 2022/2023.

Background papers

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2022/2023

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Council of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the Regulations), 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 the Scheme for the year 2022/2023.

3. Review of the Scheme

- 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 group leaders or their representatives. It also received information about the responsibilities associated with various roles, including the Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Committees, Planning and Highways Committees and Licensing and Regulatory Committee. In addition, the Panel had the benefit of meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair of an Area Committee and the Chair of a Planning and Highways Committee. On this occasion, no written representations were received from the wider Council membership.
- 3.3 The Panel wishes to thank all those members who gave their time to meet with the Panel or submit representations.

4. Submissions received

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 The Panel met with the Council Leader, Cllr Graeme Miller, who informed the Panel that in view of the increasing importance and urgency of environmental issues, he was minded to create an additional Cabinet portfolio with responsibility for “green” issues. He also made reference to a recommendation of the Panel made at the previous review, regarding the application of an indexation uplift to the current level of basic allowance, and explained that the Council had not considered it appropriate to implement that recommendation, when it adopted the Scheme for 2021/2022.

4.4 Summary of Submissions made by Opposition Group Leaders or their Representatives

4.4.1 The submissions from opposition groups were to the effect that the number of SRAs awarded and the amounts paid were too high. Many of the representations reiterated points that had consistently been made by the opposition groups in previous reviews. While the members who met with the Panel recognised it was not the Panel’s role to make recommendations regarding the governance structure in place at the Council, the two largest groups provided information regarding how they would structure the Council, by way of setting the background and context for their representations.

4.4.2 One of the groups reiterated views it had previously expressed, 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 reason for the basic allowance to increase. If it was considered necessary, SRAs should be reduced to pay for this.

4.4.3 Another opposition group reiterated its support for the following:

- SRAs for Deputy Cabinet Members and the Vice Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to be removed.
- Reduce SRAs overall by 15%.
- Reduce the basic allowance, which is too generous.
- Set the basic allowance at a level that is sufficient to cover food, drink, travel, broadband, phone rental etc. and there should be no additional payment for matters such as these. The ability to claim broadband and telephone allowances, while also being provided with a mobile phone, meant that councillors were effectively being paid twice for the same thing.
- Replace the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with an unpaid elected chairperson and deputy chairperson and remove the associated allowances.
- Adopt a similar approach to the calculation of the SRAs for the Leader and Cabinet members to that adopted for the calculation of SRAs for opposition leaders, and base it on the majority group's level of political control of the Council.

4.4.4 Additional points made on this occasion related to:

- What was or was not said to the Panel while undertaking its review, as compared to what was said in the course of Council meetings, and the possible "politicization" of the Panel.
- Attributing any representations received to named individuals.
- Two of the Deputy Cabinet posts being vacant, suggesting there was insufficient work for those posts, which in turn had implications for how the roles had been assessed.
- Two Opposition members holding posts for which SRAs were awarded, which they did not consider to be justified.
- Reducing the allowances, to demonstrate that councillors understand the hardship faced by others.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 5.1 Not unexpectedly, a number of the submissions made by the opposition parties have been made to the Panel in the course of previous reviews. The Panel considered those views in formulating its recommendations on those occasions, and should circumstances change, or new information be brought to the Panel's attention, the Panel would be open to revisiting the allowances concerned. The Panel was not however persuaded on this occasion that there was any need to amend the level of allowances previously agreed, subject to its views below regarding the linking of the basic allowance with staff pay awards.
- 5.2 Should an additional Cabinet position be created for a "Green" portfolio, the Panel was supportive, as an interim position, of such a post 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 postholder at its next review, regarding the demands and responsibilities of the post. The Panel also considered that such a position may be of a somewhat different nature to other more "traditional" Cabinet portfolios, and in the circumstances, it was minded to recommend that should a deputy be appointed to such a portfolio, no allowance should be attached to the deputy position until the Panel had had the opportunity to hear evidence from the postholder, regarding the responsibilities associated with the post.
- 5.3 Whilst the Panel does not propose any changes to SRAs, as noted at previous reviews, it is mindful that the basic allowance has not been increased for a number of years. At its previous review, the Panel recommended an uplift 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. This was not however implemented by the Council when it considered the Panel's report and adopted its scheme for 2021/2022. In this regard, the Panel wishes to be clear that any allegations regarding what was or was not said in Council meetings regarding the review and alleged "politicization" of the Panel, are not matters with which it is concerned. The Panel formulates its recommendations with no regard to what comments or statements politicians may subsequently make with regard to its report. In addition, the Panel remains of the view that ordinarily, representations received should not be attributed to individuals, as it does not wish to discourage members from submitting their full and frank views.

- 5.4 The Panel notes that a number of other authorities in the region apply an annual uplift to their Scheme linked with NJC pay awards, and it is minded to recommend an uplift to the basic award for 2022/2023 on this basis. The Council is part of the national pay negotiations process undertaken by Local Authority Employers and the Trade Unions. 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 Panel also considers that it should continue to review the Scheme on an annual basis, to consider whether it remains appropriate for further uplifts to be applied in future years, in line with any staff pay award.
- 5.5 The Panel noted that the NJC pay award for 2021/22 has not yet been confirmed, with the current offer by employers of 1.75% not having been accepted by Trades Unions. In order to make its recommendation for the year, the Panel has considered the assumption included in the Council's medium term financial plan, which is 2% for staff pay awards. The Panel therefore recommends that the basic allowance for 2022/2023 be increased to £8,536 for the financial year 2022/2023 and that the special responsibility allowances remain unchanged.
- 5.6 The Panel's recommendations regarding the level of allowances for 2022/2023 are summarised in the Appendix to this report.
- 5.7 The Panel wishes to express its thanks to those who have contributed to this review.

John Anderson CBE
Karen Straughair
Stuart Green

December 2021

Appendix

Type of Allowance	Amount per annum £
Basic Allowance	8,536
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	6,277
Vice Chair of the following:	
Area Committee	6,277
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6,277
Licensing and Regulatory Committee	4,184
Other Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Membership of Adoption and Permanency Placement Panel	4,184
Fostering Panel	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

Overnight Accommodation

The allowance will not be claimable as an allowance as such, rather reasonable costs of an overnight stay (including breakfast) will be met for business class accommodation (3 star or 4 star) within and outside of London. Unless there are exceptional circumstances the Council will book the accommodation direct selecting the most

economic option available and utilising the established procurement arrangements in place. Where exceptional circumstances exist, these will be approved in advance by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and reasonable costs will be reimbursed subject to submission of receipts.

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

*Note: Should a Deputy Cabinet Member be appointed in respect of a “Green” portfolio, any allowance attached to the position is subject to the Panel first hearing evidence regarding the associated responsibilities and recommending that such an allowance is appropriate.

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:-

Petition – Pallion Shipyard Partnership**Request urging Sunderland City Council to support the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard.**

A petition signed by 2534 signatures from Mr. Peter Middleton was presented by Councillor Mann at the Council meeting on 17 November 2021. The statement on the petition sheet stated:-

“We urge Sunderland City Council to support the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard.”

The Pallion Shipbuilding Yard closed to commercial shipbuilding in December 1988. The current owners (Pallion Engineering) have undertaken no shipbuilding activity at this facility since this time.

The Pallion Shipyard Partnership presented a petition to the full Council meeting urging it to support and assist a new operator to reopen the site and commence offshore support services, initially repair and maintenance activity. The Partnership cited interest from a third party and general market opportunities in North Sea offshore renewable energy business as the basis for securing this support.

The City Council has repeatedly requested sight of a full and comprehensive business plan that establishes if this private sector investment is indeed feasible, both in economic and environmental terms, (including previously from the Pallion Shipyard Partnership), so that it can take advice on its content, however this has not been forthcoming. Fundamental to this is confirmation (or otherwise) of potential support by the site owner for their proposals.

Any future plans for the Pallion shipyard site, which is owned by Pallion Engineering (with no Council interest), will potentially be subject to the site owner’s own internal investment appraisals of the financial returns of any project and whether this requires their own or any third-party capital investment.

The petition is at this time declined on the basis that Sunderland City Council cannot give any indication of support or otherwise from any interest in the reopening of the Pallion Shipbuilding Yard, without sight of a full and comprehensive business plan that establishes if this private sector investment is indeed feasible, both in economic and environmental terms.

Reports

COUNCIL

26 JANUARY 2022

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

26 JANUARY 2022

APPROVAL OF REASON FOR ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is for Members to consider approval of a period of absence for Councillor D. MacKnight.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that “if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority”.
- 2.2** The last attendance at a meeting by Councillor D. MacKnight was 6 September 2021 and she has been unable to attend a meeting since. In view of the provisions of the Act regarding absence from meetings, it is considered appropriate to request Council to approve a period of absence by reason of ill health.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** Council is recommended to note Councillor D. MacKnight’s absence from meetings due to ill health and, in accordance with section 85 Local Government Act 1972, approve the reason for her absence from meetings for a period up to and including the last day of her current term of office.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers to this report.

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

1. Reform of Rent Charges

This Council notes the unequal status of rent charge payers compared to that of other freeholders or leaseholders. It recognises the potential for their exploitation by unscrupulous rent charge holders.

The Council agrees to develop a strategy to ensure that: (i) any rent charges introduced, acquired or managed by this Council and/or any of its wholly owned companies, joint ventures or any other delivery vehicles or organisations treat residents fairly and proportionately; and (ii) wherever possible residents subject to rent charges are able to have assets and services adopted by and provided by the Council for which they pay Council Tax.

The Council also asks the Chief Executive to lobby the Government, and ask local Parliamentarians to do likewise, to request amendments to legislation in order to reform rent charges. These reforms should include:

- In all future developments any rent charges should be set by and paid to a company limited by guarantee and owned by the residents.
- In existing developments, following a ballot from residents in which a majority agree, a company limited by guarantee owned by the residents shall be formed. The company's purpose will be to purchase the rent charge holders interest and to be paid rent charges by the residents.
- Where residents of existing developments vote against forming a company limited by guarantee they shall be protected by amendments to section 120-122 Law of Property Act 1925, so that:
 - A defaulter must be informed in writing of the arrears at the time and before any legal action.
 - Any action must be through the courts, with the charge payer having the right to contest the level of the charge or the standard of the service provided by the charge holder.
 - All charge holders and their agents must be registered and bound by a Code of Conduct
 - Charge payers must be informed of the names and business address of the charge holder and his agents. If the charge holder is a company or trust then the names and business addresses of the Secretary, Directors or Trustees must be provided.

Councillor P.W.L. Gibson (Proposer)
Councillor M. Haswell (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor N. Hodson
Councillor M. Crosby
Councillor J. Potts
Councillor P. Edgeworth
Councillor H. Fagan

2. Working to achieve a greater policing outcome for Sunderland

This Council notes

- the Northumbria Police Force has seen its budget slashed by the Government in the name of Austerity by more than 31% between 2010/11 and 2018/19 and by March 2020 the annual cut in its budget amounted to over £144m pounds.
- the recent change of heart by government to fund additional police officers across the country but recognising Northumbria Police still continues to have a shortfall in officer numbers.
- the reduction in police numbers over this period have come at a time when expectations from local residents have increased, especially relating to police action to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

This Council recognises that Northumbria Police no longer have the resources to achieve all of the expectations demanded by local residents and that we can achieve much more by working in partnership with them and other stakeholders in this city, to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

We therefore call upon the Council to work jointly with Northumbria Police

- in supporting a permanent police presence in Washington, Coalfield and Sunderland City Centre that can be accessed by local residents
- to expand the successful SARA project based in Southwick to many other parts of the city
- to review how we can support the police through increased surveillance of anti-social behaviour hot spots via more CCTV, purchase and use of drone technology, together with a dedicated mobile traffic unit for our 20/30mph zones
- to produce an annual 'Respect Plan' for the City, detailing how the council and its partners will work collaboratively to tackle crime and the fear of crime.

Councillor G. Miller (Proposer)

Councillor F. Miller (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor C. Rowntree
Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor D.E. Snowdon
Councillor S. Laws
Councillor T. Dodds
Councillor K. Mason-Gage
Councillor I. Scott
Councillor D. Wilson
Councillor J Price
Councillor J. Fletcher
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor P. Smith

Councillor L. Farthing
Councillor N. MacKnight
Councillor K. Johnston
Councillor A. Samuels
Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor K. Noble
Councillor J. Heron
Councillor M. Walker
Councillor A. Smith
Councillor L. Williams
Councillor S. Foster