

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 28th JANUARY, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor S. Porthouse) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Martin, L	Trueman, H.
	Allen	Foster	Martin, T	Turton, M
	Atkinson	Francis	Miller, F	Turton, W
	Ball	Galbraith	Miller, G	Tye
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Morley	Walker
	Copeland	Gibson, P	Price	Watson, P
	Cummings	Gofton	Scanlan	Watson, S
	Davison	Howe	Smith, D	Williams
	Dixon, D	Jackson	Smith, P	Wilson, A
	Dixon, M	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, D.
	Ellis	Kelly	Snowdon, D.E	Wiper
	Emerson	Lauchlan	Speding	Wood
	Errington	Leadbitter	Stewart	Wright, N.
	Essl	McClennan	Taylor, A	Wright, T.H
	Farthing	Marshall	Thompson	

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Michael Arnott, Mark Greenfield and Mary Smith.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

34. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th November, 2014 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 7 – Report of Cabinet (Item 2 Revenue Budget 2015/2016	Councillor Tye	As a Chair of a commissioned youth provider
Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2015/2016)	Councillor P. Smith	As Chair of the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership and member of the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board

Announcements

(i) Deaths of former Councillor and Mayor, Andrew Myers and former Director of Social Services, Bob Hankinson

The Mayor paid tribute to former Councillor and Mayor, Andrew Myers and to former Director of Social Services Bob Hankinson who had both recently passed away.

Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) ASA Beacon Programme Plaque and the Gray Award

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Kelly informed members of the receipt of two swimming related awards. Firstly he was delighted to receive the ASA Beacon award on behalf of the Council and the Northumberland and Durham Swimming Association. The Beacon Programme covered all aspects of the swimming pathway from learning to swim classes to international events and Sunderland had been recognised as an example of national best practice.

Secondly, Councillor Kelly was delighted to receive the Gray award on behalf of the City Council. The award, named after former Sunderland school teacher and swimming coach, Mrs Agnes Gray, was presented to individuals and organisations who had supported the development of swimming across the region.

Reception of Petitions

35. RESOLVED that the under-mentioned petition, submitted by the Councillor named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme:-

Councillor Sheila Ellis – Petition from residents in support of a complaint regarding a large tree adjacent to 53 Dunelm Drive, Dairy Lane, Houghton Le Spring – Deputy Chief Executive.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Bell, Curran, Farr, Forbes, Gallagher, Lawson, MacKnight, Scaplehorn, Scott, Shattock, G. Taylor, D. Trueman, Wakefield and Waller and also on behalf of Honorary Alderman James Walker.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Council Tax Base 2015/2016

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2015/2016 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommended to Council that:-

- (i) The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2014/2015 be approved.

- (ii) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2014/2015, shall be £66,000 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,301.

2. Revenue Budget 2015/2016 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2015/2016

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance (copy attached) on the provisional budget proposals 2015/2016 and provisional Revenue Support Settlement, as a basis for the continuation of consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the information provided on the Revenue Budget Proposals and Revenue Support Settlement. The Committee recognised the difficult financial situation that the Council was facing and in particular wished to acknowledge the work of the Finance Team in preparing the provisional budget proposals.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/2016.

3. Capital Programme – Third Review 2014/2015, Provisional Resources 2015/2016 and Treasury Management Review 2014/2015

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the re-profiling of projects since the Second Capital Review for 2014/2015 was approved in October 2014, the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2014/2015 since the Second Capital Review was reported, the allocation of capital resources for 2015/2016 subject to any adjustments required when final resource announcements are made, and the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/2015.

They referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee to note the variation to the Capital Programme 2014/2015 with an estimated cost variance of £250,000 or more, details of which were set out in the extract attached as Appendix A to the report. The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the capital budget scheme variations and had no additional comment to make.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to note the variation to the Capital Programme for 2014/2015.

4. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) on an update on the consultation results for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and to recommend that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2015.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) Consider feedback received during the consultation period from
 - precepting authorities,
 - the public, including representatives/representative groups of Council Tax payers and Council Tax benefit claimants, voluntary organisations and community groups.
- (ii) Approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in in the report for the financial year 2015/16.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Finance to administer the Local Council Tax Support Scheme including undertaking the consideration and determination of applications for support and authorise the Head of Law and Governance to amend the constitution accordingly.
- (iv) Authorise the publication of the approved Scheme on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor H. Trueman moved the report of the Cabinet.

Upon the report of the Cabinet being put to the Council it was:-

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

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Councillor H. Trueman, duly seconded, moved an extension to the time for responding to Written Questions which was agreed.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – Mismanagement of the British Economy

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor H. Trueman moved the following motion in relation to the mismanagement of the British economy:-

“This Council, condemns the current Conservative led governments mismanagement of the British economy and calls upon all eligible Citizens to vote Labour at the forthcoming general election to prevent further abuse”.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried with 49 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Allan	Foster	Miller, G	Turton, W
	Atkinson	Galbraith	Mordey	Tye
	Ball	Gibson, E	Price	Walker
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Scanlan	Watson, P
	Copeland	Gofton	Smith, P	Watson, S
	Cummings	Jackson	Snowdon, D	Williams
	Davison	Kay	Snowdon, D.E	Wilson, A
	Dixon, D	Kelly	Speding	Wilson, D.
	Emerson	Lauchlan	Stewart	Wright, N.
	Errington	McClennan	Taylor, A	Wright, T.H
	Essl	Marshall	Thompson	
	Farthing	Martin, T	Trueman, H.	
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Turton, M	

And 9 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Allen	Francis	Martin, L	Wiper
	Dixon, M	Leadbitter	Smith, D	Wood
	Ellis			

Accordingly it was:-

37. RESOLVED that:-

This Council, condemns the current Conservative led governments mismanagement of the British economy and calls upon all eligible Citizens to vote Labour at the forthcoming general election to prevent further abuse.

Appointments – Washington Area Committee, Planning and Highways Committee, Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee, Adult Services Complaints Panel, Age UK, Citizen’ Advice Bureau, Washington – Management Committee, Fostering Panel, North East Child Poverty Commission and North East Automotive Alliance

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for appointments to the Washington Area Committee, Planning and Highways Committee, Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee, Adult Services Complaints Panel, Age UK, Citizens’ Advice Bureau, Washington – Management Committee, Fostering Panel, North East Child Poverty Commission and North East Automotive Alliance.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

38. RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) appoint Councillor T. Martin to serve on Age UK until the next Annual Council meeting;
- (ii) appoint Councillor T. Taylor to serve on the Washington Area Committee, Planning and Highways Committee, Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee, Adult Services Complaints Panel and Citizens' Advice Bureau, Washington – Management Committee until the next Annual Council meeting;
- (iii) appoint Councillor Farthing to serve on the Fostering Panel until the next Annual Council meeting;
- (iv) endorse the appointment of Councillor P. Smith as the new representative of the Association of North East Councils on the North East Child Poverty Commission and authorise her attendance at meetings of the Commission; and
- (v) appoint the Chief Executive as the Council's representative on the Board of the NEAA.

Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Local Government Act 1972

The Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance submitted a joint report (copy circulated) regarding the confirmation by the Human Resources Committee of previously existing temporary arrangements in respect of the Council's responsibility under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

39. RESOLVED that it be noted that the existing temporary arrangements in respect of the organisation's Section 151 responsibility undertaken by the Director of Finance (previously titled the Head of Financial Resources) were made permanent with effect from 1st December 2014 and that the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly to reflect the new arrangements.

(Signed) S. PORTHOUSE,
Mayor.

