

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor David Snowdon) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor H Trueman).

Councillors	Armstrong	Foster	Leadbitter	Snowdon, D E
	Atkinson	Francis	MacKnight, N	Stewart
	Bewick	Gibson, E	Mann	Thornton
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Blackett	Greener	McKeith	Turner
	Butler	Haswell	Miller, F	Tye
	Chequer	Heron	Miller, G	Walker, G
	Crosby	Hodson	Mordey	Walker, P
	Davison	Howe	Mullen	Waller
	Dixon, D	Hunt	O'Brien	Williams
	Dixon, M	Jackson	Oliver	Wilson, A
	Doyle	Jenkins	Rowntree	Wilson, D
	Essl	Johnston	Samuels	Wood, A
	Fagan	Kelly	Scanlan	Wood, K
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Smith, G	Wood, P
	Fletcher	Lawson	Smith, P	

Also Present: -

Honorary Aldermen: - Greenfield
Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

39. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 November 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 9 – Report of the Cabinet – Council Tax Base 2020/2021	Councillor D Turner	Member of Hetton Town Council
Item 12 – Motions on Notice – Empire Theatre Tickets	Councillor Hunt	Trustee of Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust
	Councillor O'Brien	Employee of ATG

Item 13 (ii) – Designation of Statutory Officer and Proper Officer Positions

Councillors E Gibson and P Gibson

Family Member works in Public Health

Announcements

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January had marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia. The Mayor invited Council to join him in standing for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Citywide approach to carbon reduction

The Deputy Leader provided an update on the work which had been carried out in relation to the city's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and reducing Sunderland's carbon emissions.

The scope of the work had widened to focus on not just the City Council, but also working with partners and residents to deliver carbon reduction across the city as a whole. Key to the city-wide approach was the Shadow 2030 Board which brought together partners including Sunderland College, the University of Sunderland, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Gentoo, the Department of Work and Pensions as well as Nexus and Transport NE. The first Shadow Board meeting had been held earlier in the month and had been very positive.

Within the Council, a 2030 Task Group continued its work on initiatives to drive forward carbon reduction internally. The Youth Council had agreed to focus its meeting in April on low carbon and the Deputy Leader would be in attendance to hear the thoughts and ideas of the young people involved.

A key area of work was establishing accurate baseline data on carbon emissions and once this was done, The Council would commission an updated City Carbon Reduction Plan.

The Deputy Leader also updated Members on further action being undertaken across the city including: -

- 48,000 LED street lights resulting in financial savings in excess of £3million per annum and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 6,500 tonnes per annum;
- A heat network feasibility study for the City Centre/Riverside Sunderland;
- An award of £161,846.46 from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf)
- Four electric cycles for employee business travel;
- Application for Energy Saving Trust funding for other sustainable transport modes for staff travel;
- Engagement with a charity to monitor carbon data and to benchmark and manage environmental impacts; and

- Further funding bids to support low carbon delivery.

The Deputy Leader would continue to provide updates to Council on this important priority for the City.

40. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Reception of Petitions

41. RESOLVED that the petitions listed below submitted by the Councillors named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme: -

Councillor Haswell – Petition from residents of General Havelock Road calling on the Council to resurface General Havelock Road as part of the 2020/21 road repair programme;

Councillor Haswell – Petition from residents of Westmoor and Midmoor Road calling on the Council to include the roads in the priority gritting programme or to make alternative arrangements;

Councillor Turner – Petition calling on the Council to shorten the bus stop space at Smiths Terrace, Easington Lane; and

Councillor Lawson – Petition calling on the Council to install traffic calming measures at Bowes Lea and Briar Lea, Shiney Row.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Cunningham, D MacKnight, Marshall, McDonough, Potts, Scaplehorn, Speding, Taylor and Watson together with Aldermen Arnott and Forbes. Councillors Essl and Tye had advised that they may arrive late, as they were attending a Gentoo Board meeting.

Written Questions under Rule 9

Pursuant to Rule 9 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.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

That they had given consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) on the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

carried out as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended Council to approve: -

- (a) The implementation of changes to the parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as detailed in Appendix 3 to apply to all elections, namely UK Parliamentary, Local Government and any other elections and referenda;
- (b) The authorisation of the Electoral Registration Officer to make the amendments to polling districts for the Electoral Register to be published on 1 February 2020;
- (c) The delegation to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review in consultation with ward Councillors and the portfolio holder; and
- (d) That due to the parish areas of Burdon (in Doxford ward) and Warden Law (in Copt Hill ward) being extremely small, with few electors, special circumstances apply for the purposes of the Representation of the People Act 1983, so that those parishes do not need to be separate polling districts.

2. Council Tax Base 2020/2021

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2020/2021 and seeking approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 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 2020/2021, shall be 71,336 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,868.

3. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they had given consideration to a report and supplementary 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 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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 2020 to incorporate any legislative changes to the prescribed requirements for the Scheme but that it be not otherwise revised or replaced; and
- (ii) The approved LCTSS for the financial year 2020/2021 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. Feed and Food Law Service Plan 2019/20

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods (copy attached) on the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2019/2020 to be used by the Feed and Food Safety Enforcement across the city, which had been formulated to comply with the current recommendations of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement and outlined the national priorities and standards for service delivery.

They also referred the matter to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee commended the hard work of the staff during the year and supported the Cabinet's recommendation to submit the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2019/2020 to Council for final approval.

Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to make any amendments to the plan that were considered appropriate in the light of comments from the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, prior to it being referred to Council for endorsement.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended Council to approve the Feed and Food Law Service Plan 2019/20.

5. Adoption of Core Strategy and Development Plan 2015-2033

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of City Development (copy attached) to seek approval to the adoption of the Core Strategy and Development Plan 2015-2033 (the Plan).

They also referred the matter to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for advice and consideration. The Committees supported the recommendations of the report and thanked officers for all the work involved in the preparation of the Plan.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended that Council: -

- (i) Notes the Planning Inspector's Report on the Core Strategy and Development Plan (Appendix 1) and accepts the Main Modifications;

- (ii) Adopts the Core Strategy and Development Plan 2015-2033 including the Policies Map (Appendix 2) to take effect from 30 January 2020; and
- (iii) Notes that Cabinet agreed that the Supplementary Planning Documents set out in Appendix 3 to the report are revoked with effect from 30th January 2020 subject to Council's agreement to adopt the Core Strategy and Development Plan with effect from that date, with revised SPDs to be developed where appropriate.

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

Councillors were invited to vote on the recommendations in relation to Item 5 of the Report of the Cabinet, with 36 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Miller, G	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Heron	Mordey	Turner
	Butler	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, G
	Chequer	Johnston	Samuels	Walker, P
	Davison	Kelly	Scanlan	Waller
	Dixon, D	Lauchlan	Smith, P	Williams
	Farthing	MackKnight, N	Snowdon, D E	Wilson, A
	Fletcher	McClennan	Stewart	Wilson, D
	Foster	Miller, F	Thornton	Wood, K

23 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Jenkins	O'Brien
	Bewick	Francis	Lawson	Oliver
	Blackett	Greener	Leadbitter	Smith, G
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Wood, A
	Dixon, M	Hodson	McKeith	Wood, P
	Doyle	Howe	Mullen	

And two Members voting to abstain: -

Councillors	Gibson, E	Hunt
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Accordingly, it was: -

42. RESOLVED that Item 5 of the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

The remainder of the items on the report of the Cabinet were then put to the meeting. Accordingly, it was: -

43. RESOLVED that the remaining items on the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

Written Questions under Rule 10.2

Pursuant to Rule 10.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 21 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Howe	O'Brien
	Bewick	Francis	Jenkins	Oliver
	Blackett	Greener	Leadbitter	Smith, G
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Wood, A
	Dixon, M	Hodson	Mullen	Wood, P
	Doyle			

And 39 Members voting against:

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, E	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Miller, F	Turner
	Butler	Heron	Miller, G	Tye
	Chequer	Hunt	Mordey	Walker, G
	Davison	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, P
	Dixon, D	Johnston	Samuels	Waller
	Essl	Kelly	Scanlan	Williams
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Smith, P	Wilson, A
	Fletcher	Lawson	Stewart	Wood, K
	Foster	MackKnight, N	Thornton	

Action on Petitions

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

(i) **Petition from residents calling on the reinstatement of the Go North East 36 Bus to serve the Houghton-Le-Spring – Herrington and Silksworth Areas.**

The Council had no powers in relation to bus services and were limited to lobbying the commercial operators and requesting Nexus to secure additional services to make good any gaps in the commercial network. The withdrawal of service 36 had been of concern to the Council due to the lost links as described in the petition and that this would particularly affect older and younger residents along with all others who were dependent on public transport.

Nexus was unable to address the problem of the 36 withdrawal which was covered by other services due to insufficient funds, however the existing service TB20 was extended to cover an unserved portion of the route in

Fencehouses. Following a subsequent meeting with the residents of Oakfield Court, East Herrington, Go North East had undertook to resolve the situation of lost connectivity between East Herrington and Silksworth through registering a change to service 33. This link was restored with effect from 21 July and would resolve most of the points raised in the petition.

Councillor G Walker and the lead petitioner had been advised of the outcome.

(ii) Petition requesting the introduction of traffic calming measures such as chicanes on St Luke's Road to reduce vehicle speeds

Following consideration by Council Officers, the petition had been declined.

An examination of the accident and collision history for St Luke's Road over the last five years had indicated that the rate was considered good, particularly given the relatively high volumes of traffic using the route. The recent introduction of a 20mph speed limit on St Luke's Road as a traffic management measure would help reduce vehicle speeds and Northumbria Police would be asked to continue undertaking speed enforcement action on this road. It was not considered that additional traffic calming measures were considered necessary at this time.

The local ward councillors had been advised of the outcome.

(iii) Petition requesting the upgrade to the Thompson Road/Carley Road junction on the grounds of safety.

Following consideration by Council Officers, the petition had been declined.

The junction of Thompson Road/Carley Hill Road was not considered to be inherently unsafe and the proposals for traffic signals would lead to significant capacity issues at this junction and result in the formation of long vehicle queues and introduce unnecessary vehicle delay. This could lead to driver impatience occurring and potential red light running, both of which could increase accidents/collisions at this junction.

The local ward councillors, as lead petitioners, had been advised of the outcome.

(iv) General condition of the footpaths and surfaces to Mayfield Road, South Hylton and in particular a block of lock up garages

An inspection had been made of the properties and an approach made to the landowner, highlighting the main visual defects and asking if voluntary remedial works could be undertaken prior to a further inspection of the garages.

The second inspection found that works had been carried out to considerably improve the appearance of the garage block. These works were acknowledged and the lead petitioner and Councillor Mann advised that no further action was required.

(v) Request to remove the bus lane at the Board Inn roundabout in Herrington

Council Officers have investigated the operation of the No Car Lane at the Board Inn roundabout. Bus operators had a high frequency of services operating along this route and had benefitted significantly from the presence of the No Car Lane. The bus operators had also stated that the removal of any No Car Lanes could result in major service disruption.

The accident data record for the junction was good, considering that it was a busy urban route in and out of the city and there was no indication that the No Car Lane had had a negative impact on the overall road safety.

The introduction of No Car Lanes around the City allowed for better transport links and encouraged motorists to use alternative modes of sustainable transport to help to reduce Sunderland's carbon footprint. It was considered that the No Car Lane on Durham Road was operating successfully and had the full support of Nexus and the bus operators.

Following consideration by Council Officers, the petition had been declined and Councillor McDonough and the lead petitioner had been advised of the outcome.

44. RESOLVED the report detailing action on petitions be noted.

Notices of Motion

(i) Alcohol Minimum Unit Pricing

Councillor Chequer, duly seconded by Councillor Williams, moved the following motion: -

"This Council notes that alcohol remains one of the key drivers of health inequalities and one of the key causes of premature death in Sunderland. That Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) can have a positive impact on reducing alcohol related deaths, alcohol related crimes and reducing health inequalities.

This council calls on the new government to introduce minimum unit pricing in England without delay."

Upon being put to the vote the motion was declared to be carried with 40 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Atkinson	Foster	McClennan	Thornton
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Butler	Gibson, P	Miller, G	Turner
	Chequer	Heron	Mordey	Tye
	Crosby	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, G
	Davison	Johnston	Samuels	Walker, P
	Dixon, D	Kelly	Scanlan	Williams
	Dixon, M	Lauchlan	Smith, P	Wilson, A

Essl
Fletcher

Lawson
MacKnight, N

Snowdon, D E
Stewart

Wilson, D
Wood, P

18 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Bewick	Greener	Leadbitter	O'Brien
	Blackett	Haswell	Mann	Oliver
	Doyle	Hodson	McKeith	Smith, G
	Fagan	Howe	Mullen	Wood, A
	Francis	Jenkins		

And one Member voting to abstain: -

Councillor Armstrong

The motion having been agreed it was: -

45. RESOLVED that: -

This Council notes that alcohol remains one of the key drivers of health inequalities and one of the key causes of premature death in Sunderland. That Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) can have a positive impact on reducing alcohol related deaths, alcohol related crimes and reducing health inequalities.

This council calls on the new government to introduce minimum unit pricing in England without delay."

(ii) Moving the city forward

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

"This Council notes the results of the general election in the three Sunderland constituencies and pledges to make the most of every opportunity to move the City forward under the Conservative Government."

The Leader, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, moved the following amendment to the motion: -

"After "constituencies" add "and the returning of three Labour Members of Parliament"

Delete "under the Conservative Government" and add ", working with the Government and holding it to account".

So the amended motion would read: -

"This Council notes the results of the general election in the three Sunderland constituencies and the returning of three Labour Members of Parliament and pledges to make the most of every opportunity to move the City forward, working with the Government and holding it to account."

The amendment to the motion having been unanimously agreed, the Mayor read out the substantive motion.

Councillor Haswell, duly seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved the following amendment to the substantive motion: -

After the last sentence, add the words:

This Council furthermore calls on the Government to commit adequate spending for local authorities like Sunderland, and reassure the Council and the residents of this city that it will work with and support the Council to mitigate any negative impacts of Brexit in the North East.

Councillor Miller raised a point of order under the Council Rules of Procedure on the basis that the proposal was not a true amendment, as it was not on the same issue as the original motion.

The Mayor ruled that the amendment would not be allowed.

The Mayor put the substantive motion to the meeting, which: -

46. RESOLVED that: -

This Council notes the results of the general election in the three Sunderland constituencies and the returning of three Labour Members of Parliament and pledges to make the most of every opportunity to move the City forward, working with the Government and holding it to account.

(iii) Holocaust Memorial Day in Sunderland

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor M Dixon, moved the following motion: -

“Seventy-five years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, this Council pays tribute to residents of the City who have worked, for many years, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in Sunderland.”

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

47. RESOLVED that: -

Seventy-five years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, this Council pays tribute to residents of the City who have worked, for many years, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in Sunderland.

(iv) Empire Theatre Tickets

Councillor Haswell, duly seconded by Councillor Fagan, moved the following motion: -

“The Empire Theatre is a key attraction in Sunderland holding a unique position in the North East cultural scene. In recent years the Empire Theatre,

under the management of ATG has hosted some of the best stage shows usually reserved for the West End and other major venues. The Sunderland Empire also attracts wide praise for its engagement in the community and efforts to work with groups across Sunderland, Washington, Houghton and Hetton.

This council notes that:

- Residents across the city have expressed dismay at the practice of free Empire Theatre tickets being taken by Councillors;
- Councillors accepting 'perks' such as free tickets impacts upon the reputation of elected representatives amongst residents of the city;
- Existing contractual terms between Sunderland City Council and ATG include the provision of free tickets for Councillors.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Respectfully decline free Empire Theatre tickets for Councillors until the end of the current term of the contract with ATG;
- Ensure that within any future contract for private business to run the Empire Theatre, free tickets for Councillors are not part of the agreement;
- Maintain existing arrangements as far as possible for tickets for tickets to be offered to community groups and good causes."

The Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, duly seconded by the Leader, Councillor G Miller, moved the following amendment: -

Throughout motion substitute "free" with "complimentary"

Paragraph 1, after "key" add "council owned"

Relating to the section "This council notes that:"

First Bullet before remove "being taken by Councillors" and add "being provided to the Council"

Second bullet: remove "perks such as"

Third bullet: remove "for councillors"

Add an additional fourth bullet "No complimentary Empire Theatre tickets have been supplied to the council for elected members since June 2019."

Relating to section "this council therefore resolves to:"

First bullet: before "respectfully" add "Continue to"

First Bullet: remove "for Councillors"

Second Bullet: remove "run" and replace with "manage"

Second Bullet: after "tickets" add "issued to the council" and remove "for Councillors"

Delete whole third Bullet point.

So the amended motion would read: -

The Empire Theatre is a key council owned attraction in Sunderland holding a unique position in the North East cultural scene. In recent years the Empire Theatre, under the management of ATG has hosted some of the best stage shows usually reserved for the West End and other major venues. The Sunderland Empire also attracts wide praise for its engagement in the community and efforts to work with groups across Sunderland, Washington, Houghton and Hetton.

This council notes that:

- Residents across the city have expressed dismay at the practice of complimentary Empire Theatre tickets being provided to the Council;
- Councillors accepting complimentary tickets impacts upon the reputation of elected representatives amongst residents of the city;
- Existing contractual terms between Sunderland City Council and ATG include the provision of complimentary tickets.
- No complimentary Empire Theatre tickets have been supplied to the council for elected members since June 2019.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Continue to respectfully decline complimentary Empire Theatre tickets until the end of the current term of the contract with ATG;
- Ensure that within any future contract for private business to run the Empire Theatre, complimentary tickets issued to the council are not part of the agreement.

The amendment to the motion having been put, it was declared to be carried with 41 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Armstrong	Foster	Mann	Stewart
	Atkinson	Gibson, E	McClennan	Thornton
	Bewick	Gibson, P	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Blackburn	Heron	Miller, G	Turner
	Blackett	Jenkins	Mordey	Tye
	Butler	Johnston	Rowntree	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Kelly	Samuels	Walker, P
	Dixon, M	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Williams
	Essl	Lawson	Smith, P	Wilson, A
	Farthing	MackKnight, N	Snowdon, D E	Wood, P
	Fletcher			

Four voting against: -

Councillors	Crosby	Fagan	Smith, G	Wood, A
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And seven voting to abstain: -

Councillor	Doyle	Greener	McKeith	Oliver
	Francis	Leadbitter	Mullen	

Councillor Haswell indicated that he had been unable to record his vote and stated that he had voted against the amendment.

On the substantive motion being put it was declared to be carried and accordingly it was: -

48. RESOLVED that: -

The Empire Theatre is a key council owned attraction in Sunderland holding a unique position in the North East cultural scene. In recent years the Empire

Theatre, under the management of ATG has hosted some of the best stage shows usually reserved for the West End and other major venues. The Sunderland Empire also attracts wide praise for its engagement in the community and efforts to work with groups across Sunderland, Washington, Houghton and Hetton.

This council notes that:

- Residents across the city have expressed dismay at the practice of complimentary Empire Theatre tickets being provided to the Council;
- Councillors accepting complimentary tickets impacts upon the reputation of elected representatives amongst residents of the city;
- Existing contractual terms between Sunderland City Council and ATG include the provision of complimentary tickets.
- No complimentary Empire Theatre tickets have been supplied to the council for elected members since June 2019.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Continue to respectfully decline complimentary Empire Theatre tickets until the end of the current term of the contract with ATG;
- Ensure that within any future contract for private business to run the Empire Theatre, complimentary tickets issued to the council are not part of the agreement.

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, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report.

49. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Designation of Statutory Officer and Proper Officer Positions

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval to the designation of certain posts in respect of statutory and proper officer functions.

As part of the Council's directorate and senior management restructure, in February 2019 the Human Resources Committee had approved the creation of the new post of Executive Director of Public Health and Joint Commissioning. It was proposed that the responsibilities of the postholder should include those of statutory director of public health and the Human Resources Committee recommended that Council formally approve this designation, with effect from the commencement in post of the Executive Director.

In addition, following consultation with the CCG with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the post, it was proposed that the post be retitled Executive

Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and that the Directorate be retitled accordingly to Public Health and Integrated Commissioning.

The Human Resources Committee had agreed to the transfer of the Registration Service to Law and Governance Services in February 2019. The Council had subsequently approved to the reallocation of delegated functions to reflect the new management structure, however there was also a requirement to designate a 'proper officer' for certain registration functions. In recent years these functions had been split between different officers and it was recommended that the Council formally confirm that the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be the designated proper officer for registration services functions.

The Council therefore: -

50. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the title of the post of Executive Director of Public Health and Joint Commissioning be amended to the Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and the post be designated as the statutory director of public health under Section 73A National Health Service Act 2006, with effect from the date of commencement in post of the first individual appointed to the position and to amend the title of the directorate to Public Health and Integrated Commissioning; and
- (ii) the post of Assistant Director of Law and Governance be designated as the proper officer for the exercise of registration functions under the various legislative provisions relating to births, deaths and marriages including the Registration Service Act 1953, the Marriage Act 1949 and Civil Partnership Act 2004 and to undertake all associated functions including those in respect of appointment of superintendent registrars, local schemes and other ceremonies including citizenship ceremonies.

Appointments to Committees

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments to the Planning and Highways Committee and the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report and accordingly, it was: -

51. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Councillor Jackson be appointed as Chair and Councillor D Wilson be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2020; and
- (ii) Councillor Thornton be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton and Washington) Sub-Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2020.

(Signed) D SNOWDON,
Mayor.

