

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016 at 6.00pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Curran) in the Chair

Councillors	Allen	Forbes	Marshall	Taylor
	Atkinson	Francis	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Ball	Galbraith, G	Middleton	Trueman, H
	Beck	Galbraith, I	Miller, F	Turner
	Bell	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Turton, M
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Mordey	Tye
	Copeland	Gofton	O'Neil	Walker, G
	Cummings	Heron	Price	Walker, P
	Dixon, D	Howe	Scaplehorn	Waters
	Dixon, M	Jackson	Smith, D	Watson, P
	Elliott	Kay	Smith, P	Williams
	Ellis	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Wilson, A
	Essl	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D E	Wood
	Farthing	Lawson	Speding	Wright, N
	Fletcher	Leadbitter	Stewart	Wright, T H

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Michael Arnott and Mark Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

29. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to amendments to show that Councillor Fletcher and Lawson had submitted apologies to the meeting and to correct the spelling of Honorary Alderman Arnott's name.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared an interest as follows: -

Item 7 – Report of the Cabinet: Revenue Budget 2016/2017 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2016/2017	Councillors Fletcher, Lawson and A Wilson	Directors of Sunderland Care and Support Limited
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Item 9 – Written Questions: Councillor Speding
City Centre
Redevelopment

Council Representative on
Siglion LLP

The following declaration was made and Councillors Kay and McClennan left the Council Chamber during consideration of the item: -

Item 10 – Notices of
Motion: (ii) European
Union

Councillor Kay

Contracted to carry out work on
behalf of the European
Commission

Councillor McClennan

Husband is contracted to carry
out work on behalf of the
European Commission

Announcements

Bronze Food for Life Catering Mark

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mordey informed Members that the Council's School Meals Service had been awarded the Bronze Food for Life Catering Mark by the Soil Association in recognition for consistently providing fresh, healthy, locally sourced school meals.

The service provided meals in 83 primary, special and nursery schools across the city, serving meals to more than 13,000 children a day and this annual, national award recognised the Council's commitment to producing fresh, nutritious food using locally sourced produce from suppliers who met UK animal welfare standards.

The award also ensured that school meals were prepared fresh on a daily basis and met the Government guidelines for food and nutrition. The Food for Life Catering Mark provided further assurance as to the quality of the Council's school meal service to schools, parents and children across the city.

Reception of Petitions

30. 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 Francis – Petition from residents of Dene Lane, Fulwell to request that Dene Lane be included within the Community Parking Management Scheme – Executive Director of Commercial Development.

Councillor Francis – Petition from residents of Grasmere Crescent, Honister Drive, Kirkstone Avenue and Rydal Mount to express support for the Community Parking Management Scheme – Executive Director of Commercial Development.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Davison, Emerson, English, Farr, Foster, Gallagher, MacKnight, Porthouse, Scanlan, W Turton, Waller, S Watson and D Wilson and from Honorary Alderman Mary Smith.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Annual Audit Letter 2014/2015

That they have submitted for consideration by Council a report of the Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance on the Annual Audit Letter from the external Auditors Mazars, covering the year 2014/2015 together with a copy of the Audit Letter which summarises findings from the audit of the Council's financial statements and the results of the external auditor's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in its use of resources.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to note the contents of the report.

2. Council Tax Base 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017, shall be £67,556 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,451.

3. Revenue Budget 2016/2017 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to a report of the Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance on the provisional budget proposals 2016/2017 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 wished to acknowledge the work of Members and Officers and in particular that 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 2016/2017.

4. Capital Programme - Third Capital Review 2015/2016, Provisional Resources 2016/2017 and Treasury Management Review 2015/2016

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 2015/2016 was approved in October 2015, the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2015/2016 since the Second Capital Review was reported, the allocation of capital resources for 2016/2017 subject to any adjustments required when final resource announcements are made, and the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/2016.

They referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee to note the variation to the Capital Programme 2015/2016 with an estimated cost variance of £250,000 or more, details of which are set out in the attached extract Appendix A. 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 2015/2016.

5. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance 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 2016.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) Consider feedback received during the consultation period from the public,
- (ii) Approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in the report for the financial year 2016/17, which is unchanged from the current scheme, and
- (iii) 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.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Commercial Development and the Head of Law and Governance on the new powers available to the Council and other bodies under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act), the authorisation of officers to exercise powers under the Act, including the issue of fixed penalty notices and to set the level of the fixed penalty notices.

The Cabinet authorised the use of the full range of powers available under the Act as set out in the Report and also agreed that the level of the fixed penalty notices issued under Section 52 and 68 of the Act be set at £75 (discounted to £50 if paid within 10 days).

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to authorise the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader, to amend the Constitution to reflect the delegation of functions set out in paragraph 8 of the Report and to make such other consequential amendments as are appropriate.

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:-

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

Report of the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

Review of Scrutiny Arrangements and Next Steps

That they have submitted for consideration by Council a joint report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements on a proposed new scrutiny structure and operating model following an independent review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Committee gave consideration to the report at its meeting held on 3 December 2015 and the following points were highlighted:-

- i) Consideration be given to an amendment to the proposed membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, (as detailed in Appendix one of the report), to provide for the inclusion of the Vice Chairs of the three thematic Scrutiny Committees resulting in the following membership:-

Chairman
Vice Chairman
3X Thematic Chairman
3X Thematic Vice Chairman
6 Scrutiny Members
(Total = 14 Members)

- ii) Consideration be given to the power to appoint co-opted member(s) to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Accordingly the Scrutiny Committee recommends to Council that subject to i) and ii) above, approval be given to the proposed new model for Scrutiny as detailed in paragraph 5 and appendix 1 of the report, to be implemented from the start of the municipal year 2016/17.

Councillor M Dixon, duly seconded by Councillor Wood, moved that the report be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

Upon being put to the vote, the reference back was defeated with 8 members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allen Dixon, M	Forbes Francis	Howe Leadbitter	Smith, D Wood
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52 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor Curran)

Councillors	Atkinson	Galbraith, G	Middleton	Trueman, D
	Ball	Galbraith, I	Miller, F	Trueman, H
	Beck	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Turner
	Bell	Gibson, P	Mordey	Turton, M
	Blackburn	Gofton	O'Neil	Tye
	Copeland	Heron	Price	Walker, G
	Cummings	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Walker, P
	Dixon, D	Kay	Smith, P	Waters
	Elliott	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Watson, P
	Ellis	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D E	Williams
	Essl	Lawson	Speding	Wilson, A
	Farthing	Marshall	Stewart	Wright, N
	Fletcher	McClennan	Taylor	

Councillor N Wright, duly seconded by Councillor D E Snowdon, moved the report.

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

32. RESOLVED that the report of the Scrutiny Committee 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.

Notices of Motion

(i) Provision for All-Weather Activities at Seaburn and Roker

Councillor Francis, seconded by Councillor Leadbitter, moved the following motion: -

This Council welcomes development at Roker and Seaburn which is in accord with the character of the twin resorts and the wishes of local residents but believes that, to be successful, appropriate provision for all-weather activities needs to be made.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried with 54 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allen	Francis	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Atkinson	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Ball	Gibson, P	Mordey	Turner
	Beck	Gofton	O'Neil	Turton, M
	Bell	Howe	Price	Tye
	Blackburn	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Walker, G
	Copeland	Kay	Smith, D	Walker, P
	Dixon, M	Kelly	Smith, P	Waters
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D	Watson, P
	Ellis	Lawson	Snowdon, D E	Williams
	Essl	Leadbitter	Speding	Wilson, A
	Farthing	Marshall	Stewart	Wood
	Fletcher	McClennan	Taylor	Wright, N
	Forbes	Middleton		

And 6 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor Curran)

Councillors	Cummings	Galbraith, G	Gibson, E	Heron
	Dixon, D			

Accordingly, it was: -

33. RESOLVED that: -

“This Council welcomes development at Roker and Seaburn which is in accord with the character of the twin resorts and the wishes of local residents but believes that, to be successful, appropriate provision for all-weather activities needs to be made.”

(ii) European Union

Councillor P Watson, seconded by Councillor H Trueman moved the following motion: -

This Council believes that, it is in the best interests of the residents of the City of Sunderland, that the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried with 50 Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor Curran)

Councillors	Allen	Galbraith, G	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Ball	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Beck	Gibson, E	Mordey	Turner
	Bell	Gibson, P	O'Neil	Turton, M
	Blackburn	Gofton	Price	Tye
	Copeland	Heron	Scaplehorn	Walker, G
	Cummings	Jackson	Smith, P	Walker, P
	Dixon, D	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Waters
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D E	Watson, P
	Ellis	Lawson	Speding	Williams
	Essl	Marshall	Stewart	Wilson, A
	Farthing	Middleton	Taylor	Wright, N
	Fletcher			

3 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Forbes	Howe	Leadbitter
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And 4 Members abstaining: -

Councillors	Dixon, M	Francis	Smith, D	Wood
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Accordingly it was: -

34. RESOLVED that: -

“This Council believes that, it is in the best interests of the residents of the City of Sunderland, that the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union.”

(iii) Severe Weather

Councillor Mordey, seconded by Councillor M Turton moved the following motion: -

This Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to all the emergency services, council staff and City residents – for everything they did in assisting their communities during the recent atrocious weather.

We would also like to place on record our sympathy to all those communities across the North of England and Scotland that have been flooded.

We therefore call upon the Conservative Government to unreservedly apologise to the people of the United Kingdom for leaving them with an estimated bill of £5.8 billion for the clean up after they slashed approximately 20% from flood defences since 2010.

In addition, Councillor Mordey requested that the names of the members of staff involved in the responses to the severe weather be formally recorded as follows: -

Andy Old, Michael Banks, Scott Matthews, Marty Jameson, Alan Taylor, Guy Thubron, Eddie Rowntree, Michael Pattison, Phil Collins, Steven Jardin, Aiden Turnes, Peter Jameson, Debby Hall, Andy Wilson, Ryan Dixon, Stephen Weeks, Stephen Robson, Keith Avery, Bill Blackett, Reece Davis, Neil Clark, Eddie Ashton, Jimmy Young, Robert Neilson, Brian Hern, Nicky Rowland, Michael Fascia, Katie Kelly, Dave Hardy, Steve Meek, Stephen Greenlaw, Foster Nevins, Ian Parker, Duncan Ritchie, Paul Simpson, Mark Hills, Lee Stothard, Antony Moon, Anthony Muldown, Tom Rose, Anthony Killeen, Gerald Campbell, Mark Evans, George Bage, David Steinberg, Brian Lowther, Ronnie Craggs, Martin Scott, Tom Rose, Gary Nesbitt and Steve Taylor.

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor M Dixon, proposed the following amendment: -

Delete third paragraph, so that the amended motion would read: -

“This Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to all the emergency services, council staff and City residents – for everything they did in assisting their communities during the recent atrocious weather.

We would also like to place on record our sympathy to all those communities across the North of England and Scotland that have been flooded.”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated with 5 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allen Dixon, M	Forbes	Francis	Wood
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51 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor Curran)

Councillors	Ball	Galbraith, I	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Beck	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Bell	Gibson, P	Mordey	Turner
	Blackburn	Gofton	O’Neil	Turton, M
	Copeland	Heron	Price	Tye
	Cummings	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Kay	Smith, P	Walker, P
	Elliott	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Waters
	Ellis	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D E	Watson, P
	Essl	Lawson	Speding	Williams
	Farthing	Marshall	Stewart	Wilson, A
	Fletcher	McClennan	Taylor	Wright, N
	Galbraith, G	Middleton		

And 1 Member abstaining: -

Councillor	Smith, D
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Therefore the original motion was put to the vote and was carried with 52
Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor Curran)

Councillors	Ball	Galbraith, I	Miller, F	Trueman, D
	Beck	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Trueman, H
	Bell	Gibson, P	Mordey	Turner
	Blackburn	Gofton	O'Neil	Turton, M
	Copeland	Heron	Price	Tye
	Cummings	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Kay	Smith, D	Walker, P
	Elliott	Kelly	Smith, P	Waters
	Ellis	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D	Watson, P
	Essl	Lawson	Snowdon, D E	Williams
	Farthing	Marshall	Speding	Wilson, A
	Fletcher	McClennan	Stewart	Wright, N
	Galbraith, G	Middleton	Taylor	

2 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Dixon, M	Forbes
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And 3 Members abstaining: -

Councillors	Allen	Francis	Wood
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Accordingly it was: -

35. RESOLVED that: -

“This Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to all the emergency services, council staff and City residents – for everything they did in assisting their communities during the recent atrocious weather.

We would also like to place on record our sympathy to all those communities across the North of England and Scotland that have been flooded.

We therefore call upon the Conservative Government to unreservedly apologise to the people of the United Kingdom for leaving them with an estimated bill of £5.8 billion for the clean up after they slashed approximately 20% from flood defences since 2010.”

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.

There were no such instances to report.

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

36. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report recommending the Council to consider additional appointments to the Board of Sunderland Care and Support Limited.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved the recommendations contained in the report be approved and it was: -

37. RESOLVED that the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Finance Officer of Sunderland Care and Support Limited be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company.

(Signed) B CURRAN
Mayor

