

THE CABINET

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Thursday, 25 August, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Part I

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 July 2011, Part I (Copy herewith).	1
2.	Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any)	
3.	Apologies for Absence	
4.	Honorary Freedom of the City Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy herewith).	9

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

The reports contained in Part II of the Agenda are not for publication as the Cabinet is considered likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to any individual, which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Part II

5. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 July 2011, Part II** 15

(Copy herewith).

 **Denotes Key Decision.**

*** Denotes Rule 15 Notice issues – item which is a key decision which is not included in the Forward Plan.**

ELAINE WAUGH
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND

16 August 2011

CABINET MEETING – 25TH AUGUST, 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

MINUTES, PART I

Author(s):

Head of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

Presents the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th July, 2011 Part I.

Action Required:

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 20 July 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Blackburn, Charlton, Gofton, Kelly, P. Smith, Speding, Trueman and T. Wright

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 April 2011, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of Councillors Blackburn, Speding and Watson in the recorded apologies of absence, the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the reports below as Members of the bodies indicated:-

Item 13 – Funding the Purchase of a new Mobile Crane	Councillors Speding and P. Watson	Members of the Port Board
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Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Report of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee, Part I

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7 July 2011, Part I (copy circulated) was submitted and consideration was given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the report of the meeting held on 7 July 2011, Part I be noted.

Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to advise of the responses received following public consultation on the Draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code and to seek approval to adopt the revised Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code as a Supplementary Planning Document.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Charlton reminded Cabinet Members that the Seafront Regeneration Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in February 2010 and provided an overarching framework to guide the future redevelopment of the seafront. He reported that a masterplan for Marine Walk was produced alongside the Seafront Regeneration Strategy to provide specific planning and design guidance for Roker and a similar approach had been taken for the Seaburn Promenade and Ocean Park areas.

Councillor Charlton highlighted that the vision for Seaburn was for a family focused resort offering high quality indoor and outdoor facilities for both residents and visitors. He added that the Seaburn Masterplan promoted a leisure-led development at Ocean Park featuring an all year round mix of uses.

Cabinet Members were advised that the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code had been the subject of statutory public consultation between 19 October and 29 November 2010 and 196 responses were received. Councillor Charlton advised that the responses were generally supportive of the approach and the main issues included the potential for new housing, consequent loss of green space, the level of parking available at the site, the future of the Seaburn Centre and the quantity and standard of public toilets available. He added that these had been addressed as set out in the body of the Cabinet Report and a final masterplan and design code had been prepared.

Councillor Charlton reported that an adopted masterplan and design code for Seaburn would provide guidance against which planning applications could be tested, as they came forward and it was an important step in the continuing regeneration of Sunderland's seafront.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the amendments made to the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code in light of responses received during the public consultation on the document and other considerations be noted;
- (ii) the amended Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor (SSTC) – New Wear Crossing Progress

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the development of the Best and Final Bid (BAFB) to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by noon on 9th September 2011 and to describe the key activities throughout 2011 required to take the Project forward.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Blackburn highlighted that the report noted the progress that had been made to date in developing the SSTC New Wear crossing project in particular the substantial completion of the detailed design; delivery of a successful market sounding event and the submission to the DfT of an Expression of Interest. He reported that the next key stage was to submit to the DfT the Best and Final Bid on or before 9th September 2011. He explained that this was a key document as it set out the business case for the scheme and would contain the best estimate of the funding that would be required from the DfT.

Cabinet Members were advised that authority was sought for Chief Officers to finalise the Best and Final Bid and that the DfT would announce its decision in December following which a further report on the outcome would be submitted to Cabinet.

Cabinet Members having been advised that in the meantime Officers would continue to work on various aspects of the project all of which were intended to ensure that the project was ready to deliver as soon as a positive decision on funding was received, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposed actions in respect of progressing the Best and Final Bid (BAFB), be endorsed as set out in section 5 and the key activities summarised in section 6;
- (ii) the Executive Director of City Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services be authorised to finalise and submit the BAFB to DfT; and
- (iii) a further report on the outcome of the BAFB submission be submitted to Cabinet.

Annual Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide details of the findings of the 2010/2011 Annual Governance Review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Trueman highlighted the report and in particular reminded Cabinet Members that the Annual Review was designed to ensure that governance arrangements across the Council remained robust, appropriate and fit for purpose. He explained that the review had been conducted by means of a comprehensive and extensive process which was outlined in Section 4 of the report and had drawn assurance from a range of sources detailed within paragraph 4.2.

Turning to the results of the review, Councillor Trueman reported that these were very positive and it should be noted from the conclusion of the review that the Council continued to have robust and effective corporate governance arrangements in place. He referred to the Governance Statement which was included at Appendix 2 and Appendix 1 contained a small number of improvements which would be implemented to continue to further strengthen arrangements.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Draft Improvement Plan and Draft Annual Governance Statement be approved.

Procurement Procedure to Establish a Framework for Public Art Consultants

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for a procurement procedure to be undertaken to establish a framework of Public Art Consultants.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly highlighted the report and advised that it was hoped to establish a framework of Public Art Consultants following a procurement procedure being undertaken in accordance with the Appendix to the Procurement Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 7 of the Council's Constitution). He added that the potential value of services under the framework was currently unknown, but had the potential to be over £200,000 over the period of the framework and as such Cabinet approval was being sought for the procurement procedure to proceed.

Councillor Kelly reported that this procedure would ensure the Council had access to specialist knowledge and skills of the selected Consultants, ensuring continuity in the development of Sunderland's Public Art programme and sustaining quality provision. He added that the Framework would establish a robust value for money service, enable the call-off consultants as and when required at a competitive price, provide access a diverse range of skills depending on the project and the ability to purchase only the number of consultant hours required.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Council did not have the necessary skills available to provide this type of service in-house. In addition to ensure that the expertise was available at the point of project approval would mean employing staff specifically for each project which would be costly to the Council.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to the establishment of a framework of Public Art Consultants following a procurement procedure being undertaken in accordance with the Appendix to the Procurement Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 7 of the Council's Constitution).

Extension of Current Agreements with Housing Related Support Providers

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to request Cabinet to note and endorse extensions to the current agreements with housing related support providers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Wright highlighted that the report seeks retrospective approval to the extension of all housing related support agreements for a further year to ensure services continue to be provided. He explained that the current agreements ended on 31 March 2011.

Councillor Wright highlighted the importance of extending all current agreements with housing related support providers until 31st March 2012 and enabling current provision of housing related support to continue. He explained that this would reduce the risk of vulnerable people entering high cost care services or being at risk of homelessness.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Directorate would continue with ongoing engagement and consultation with providers and service users to establish what services needed to be commissioned and how they needed to be commissioned in the future. Councillor Wright assured that this would ensure a smooth transition from the current commissioned housing related support market to the newly commissioned services in April 2012, in line with the principles set out in the service assessment for housing related support, which was being led by Health, Housing and Adult Services.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the extension of the current agreements with housing related support providers for housing related support contracts for a period of 12 months (1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012) be noted and endorsed.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to any individual, which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) and to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

(Signed) P. WATSON,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

CABINET MEETING – 25TH AUGUST 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Honorary Freedom of the City

Author(s):

Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Purpose of Report:

To consider recommending Council formally to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr John Mawston, Sir Bob Murray CBE and Sir Peter Vardy.

Description of Decision:

To recommend to Council that:-

- (i) it agrees to the conferring, in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, of the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr John Mawston, Sir Bob Murray CBE and Sir Peter Vardy, and
- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 14th October 2011.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? **N/A**

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The proposal will formally recognise the outstanding contributions made by Mr John Mawston, Sir Bob Murray CBE and Sir Peter Vardy to the well being and community spirit of the City.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

There are no alternative options submitted for consideration, as the conferring of honorary freedoms is considered to be appropriate in order to recognise the outstanding contributions made by the nominated individuals.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? **No**

Is it included in the Forward Plan? **No**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Management Scrutiny Committee

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY

**Joint report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of
Commercial and Corporate Services**

1.0- Purpose of Report

To consider recommending Council formally to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr John Mawston, Sir Bob Murray CBE and Sir Peter Vardy.

2.0 Description of Decision

To recommend to Council that:-

- (i) it agrees to the conferring, in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, of the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr John Mawston, Sir Bob Murray CBE and Sir Peter Vardy, and
- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 14th October 2011.

3.0 Background

The Council has traditionally honoured notable citizens of Sunderland who have made significant contributions to the well being and community spirit of the City by conferring on them the Honorary Freedom of the City.

Members of the Council have now nominated three candidates for consideration:-

3.1 Mr John Mawston

John Mawston has been nominated in recognition of his outstanding contributions to culture and leisure in his local community and within the City.

He was first elected as a Councillor on Houghton Urban District Council in 1954 and served as its Chairman in 1967/68. In 1973 he was elected to represent "Area three" of Houghton on the newly constituted Sunderland Borough Council. He represented Shiney Row Ward since its inception until his retirement from the City Council in May 2002. Therefore he served as a local Councillor for a total of 48 years; a truly remarkable achievement.

During his years on the Council John took a particular interest in developing Culture and Leisure within the City. He was Vice-chairman of the Leisure Committee from 1976 until he became its Chairman in 1998. In 1999 he became the first Cabinet Member to hold the Leisure Portfolio.

In 1987 he had the honour of serving as Mayor of Sunderland.

During his long career John served as a Justice of the Peace for over 30 years. He has been chairman of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee for well over a quarter of a century and his great love of band music was evidenced by his Chairmanship of the North Regional Brass Band Trust and his Presidency of the Houghton Pipe Band. He was also enthusiastic in his support for the Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust, the Tyne and Wear Museums Service and the Beamish North of England Open Air Museum.

3.2 Sir Bob Murray CBE

Sir Bob has been nominated in recognition of his outstanding contributions to football, education and charitable causes within the city.

Sir Bob, the son of a steelworker from Consett, Co Durham, left school at 15, and went on to build several successful multi million pound businesses, creating and retaining thousands of skilled manufacturing jobs in the UK.

He joined Sunderland AFC as a director and shareholder in 1984, becoming chairman in 1986 and going on to become Sunderland's longest-serving chairman. During his Chairmanship, the club relocated from Roker Park to the 49,000 seat Stadium of Light.

In 2006 he relinquished his control of the club and was made honorary Life President.

In 2010 he was knighted in the Queens Birthday Honours List for services to football and education.

He was founder and is chairman of trustees of the Sunderland AFC Foundation, one of the most influential football charities in the UK, with

its own purpose built facility; the “Centre of Light”. The Sunderland Foundation works closely with very many young people in various programmes.

Sir Bob was appointed a board member of Wembley between 2001 and 2002 and he helped to inspire the regeneration of the City of Sunderland through the development of the Stadium of Light, The Academy of Light, The Sunderland Aquatic Centre and The Centre of Light.

Away from Sunderland AFC Sir Bob was heavily involved in the affairs of schools in the City, taking a significant role in the setting up of the Academy schools.

3.3 Sir Peter Vardy

Sir Peter has been nominated in recognition of his outstanding contributions to business and education.

Born in 1947, Sir Peter, from Houghton-le-Spring, took control of the car dealership Reg Vardy plc. In the 1970s he was successful in acquiring franchises to sell various brands in the UK and from 1982 he expanded into the volume car market, first with British manufacturers and subsequently with European and Japanese marques. The business grew from the one dealership in Houghton le Spring to 100 nationwide; employing up to 6000 people and with a £2 billion turnover.

He was awarded the inaugural Industry Personality of the Year Award in a round of Automotive Management Awards and received a knighthood for services to education in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 2001.

In May 2006, The Vardy Group of Companies was launched in Durham.

He has had a long commitment to philanthropy, through the Vardy Foundation, supporting a very wide range of community causes. He has been at the forefront of business involvement in education and has funded the building of a City Technology College in Gateshead and three Academies in Middlesbrough, Thorne and Blyth. These four schools form the Emmanuel Schools Foundation; a coalition of schools with a Christian ethos based in the north of England.

4.0 Current Position

Given Sunderland’s long tradition of conferring the Freedom of the City on its notable citizens who through their various achievements have contributed to the well being and community spirit of the City, it is

considered appropriate to recommend the Council to confer the Freedom of the City upon the three nominees.

5.0 Reasons for Decision

The proposal will formally seal the relationships between the nominees and the City of Sunderland and will recognize their contributions to the well being and community spirit of the City.

6.0 Alternative Options

There are no alternative options submitted for consideration, as the conferring of honorary freedoms is considered to be appropriate in order to recognise the outstanding contributions made by the nominated individuals.

7.0 Background Papers

None.