

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE, 2019 at 4.00 pm

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

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

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - Greenfield
Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

6. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 May 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 12 – Motions on Notice – Protecting Schools from Government Funding Cuts	Councillor Hunt	Governor of St Pauls CE School
	Councillor Lawson	Governor of Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School
	Councillor N. MacKnight	Member of Aim High Academy

Announcements

(i) North East Better Health at Work Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Dr. G. Walker advised the Council that Sunderland City Council had once again been successful with its submission for the North East Better Health at Work Award. For the second year running the Council had achieved the highest level of the award, Maintaining Excellence, in what was now the eighth year of participation.

This award was in recognition of all the work completed by teams and individuals across the organisation in order to maintain/improve the health and wellbeing of colleagues, friends and family members, helping to make Sunderland a more vibrant, dynamic and healthy City.

(ii) Culture Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Kelly advised the Council that Sunderland City Council had won Best event North East for the Tall Ships Event.

The Mayor received the awards on behalf of the Council.

Reception of Petitions

7. 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 Greener – Petition from residents calling on the Council to look at the condition of roads within Mount Grove, Chatsworth Crescent and Chatsworth Crescent South.

Councillor Dr. G. Walker – Petition from residents calling on the reinstatement of the Go North East 36 Bus to serve the Houghton-Le-Spring – Herrington and Silksworth Areas.

Councillor Cunningham – Petition from residents calling on the Council to replace and bring up to date equipment and supply a piece of equipment for disabled children to meet inclusive standards. To erect no dogs allowed signs at King George Playing Field, Church Road, Hetton Downs.

Councillor Hodson – Petition from residents of Thornholme Road who wish to seek advice from the Council for assistance in obtaining the same signage to alleviate parking issues caused by the implementation of parking permits around Beechwood Terrace, Ashwood Terrace and Beechwood Street.

Councillor Hodson – Petition from residents to call on the Council to protect the flagstones and granite kerbs on Thornhill Terrace when making repairs to the carriageway, footpaths and kerbs in the street.

Councillor McDonough – Petition from residents to call on the Council to remove the bus lane at the Board Inn roundabout in Herrington.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Leadbitter, Marshall, McClennan, Potts, Scaplehorn, Speding and P. Walker and on behalf of Alderman Arnott.

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. Honorary Freedom of the City

That they had given consideration to a report of the Chief Executive recommending that the Council consider formally conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City upon the England footballer Jordan Henderson to recognise the example of commitment and achievement he sets as an ambassador of Sunderland and role model for young people.

The Cabinet recommended 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 Jordan Henderson, 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 at an appropriate time in the future.

2. Cross Border Taxi Licensing Enforcement

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods outlining proposals for the Council to enter into arrangements with other local authorities in the north east region in order to facilitate cross border licensing enforcement with regard to hackney carriages and private hire vehicles that are being operated outside of the area of the local authority from which their relevant licences were obtained.

The Cabinet agreed that:-

- (i) The Council enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with other local authorities in the north east region in order to facilitate cross border licensing enforcement with regard to hackney carriages and private hire vehicles that are being operated outside of the area of the local authority from which the relevant licences were obtained.
- (ii) The form of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be in the form, or substantially in the form, of that set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to any amendments required or agreed by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance.
- (iii) The Council enters into agreements under section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 with the other authorities participating in the Cross Border Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Authorisation Scheme for (a) the placing at the disposal of the other authorities for the purposes of the Scheme the services of licensing officers employed by the Council; and (b) the acceptance of the services of officers of those other participating authorities on a reciprocal basis.
- (iv) The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods be authorised to take all steps necessary to implement the above and be given delegated power to authorise officers made available by other participating authorities to exercise taxi licensing enforcement powers within their respective areas on behalf of this Council.
- (v) Council be asked to agree provisions (1) to (4) above in relation to any matters within the remit of the Scheme and the Memorandum of Understanding that are not functions of the Executive.

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

The Leader advised Jordan Henderson, whilst proud to accept the honour of freedom of the City, would like to take up this offer at the end of his career and had agreed to become an ambassador for the city in the meantime.

The approval and adoption of the Cabinet report was agreed:-

Accordingly it was:-

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

Area Arrangements Annual Report 2018/19

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted the Area Committee Annual Report which summarised the work of the five Area Committees during 2018/2019.

Councillor Kelly, duly seconded by Councillor P. Stewart, moved the Annual Report of the Area Committees and accordingly it was: -

9. RESOLVED that the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees and their supporting People and Place Boards during 2018/2019, as outlined in the Annual Report, be received and noted.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

The Director of People, Partnerships and Communications submitted the Scrutiny Annual Report which summarised the work of the Scrutiny Committees during 2018/2019.

Councillor D. MacKnight, duly seconded by Councillor Hunt, moved the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees and accordingly it was: -

10. RESOLVED that the operation, achievements and impact of the Scrutiny Committees during 2018/2019 as outlined in the report, be received and noted.

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 Haswell, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 22 Members voting in favour: -

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

And 43 Members voting against: -

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

Notices of Motion

(i) Captain Robert Nairac, Grenadier Guards

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

“This Council pays tribute to Captain Robert Nairac, of the Grenadier Guards, who was murdered 42 years ago whilst serving in Northern Ireland.

This Council notes the local connection between the Nairac family and the City of Sunderland and will assist in any tribute proposed by the House of Commons”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried with 63 Members voting in favour: -

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

And 2 Members voting against:-

Councillors Hodson Wood, A.

Accordingly, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:-

This Council pays tribute to Captain Robert Nairac, of the Grenadier Guards, who was murdered 42 years ago whilst serving in Northern Ireland.

This Council notes the local connection between the Nairac family and the City of Sunderland and will assist in any tribute proposed by the House of Commons.

(ii) Protecting Schools from Government Funding Cuts

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

This Council notes that as a result of Government cuts to education funding that Sunderland schools:

- Will have lost £22.7 million in overall funding between 2015-2020
- Will have lost the equivalent of £267 per pupil
- Have seen an increase in class sizes
- Are having to bear the brunt of unfunded National Insurance contributions
- Have an inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need

Without the support they need **Sunderland Council** resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education and call for more funding to be invested in education.
- To support the coalition of trade unions campaigning against school cuts.
- To call on the Government to fully fund and fully implement current and future recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body on teachers' pay
- To remind Parents and Governors of the impact on school budgets of the proposed Government National Funding Formula.

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

12. RESOLVED that:-

This Council notes that as a result of Government cuts to education funding that Sunderland schools:

- Will have lost £22.7 million in overall funding between 2015-2020
- Will have lost the equivalent of £267 per pupil
- Have seen an increase in class sizes
- Are having to bear the brunt of unfunded National Insurance contributions
- Have an inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need

Without the support they need **Sunderland Council** resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education and call for more funding to be invested in education.
- To support the coalition of trade unions campaigning against school cuts.
- To call on the Government to fully fund and fully implement current and future recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body on teachers' pay
- To remind Parents and Governors of the impact on school budgets of the proposed Government National Funding Formula

(iii) Housing

Councillor Atkinson, duly seconded by Councillor Johnston, moved the following motion:-

"Housing is a fundamental need and decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this city. The reason is simple that without stable housing everything else just falls apart. Housing is not only a roof, but social housing provides social innovation, employment services, health services, social inclusion ensuing that the quality of life of its residents is improved.

We ask this council to resolve that they implement the following housing commitments:

- That we prioritise the building of Social Housing and that the builds are to a high specification and lead the way forward using recycled material and green energy in a bid to move towards a stable and de-carbonised economy.
- That the needs of our residents are met by any housing built and future-proofs the city's housing stock.
- That we explore all ownership methods for social housing.
- Ensure that all 2,500 empty properties in Sunderland are brought back into use
- Develop a Homelessness Charter
- Work to prevent homelessness and develop a strategy of sign-posting before people are made homeless.
- Ensure that Veterans and children are a priority in our housing strategies
- Ensure domestic violence sufferers who live in homes in Sunderland are afforded the support they need.
- Ensure that residents in private tenancies are fully supported.

- Work with all registered providers to ensure their stock is well maintained and that they develop schemes to ensure more social housing is available to residents
- We ensure that HMOs are licenced and that owners understand their commitment to the residents who live in them as well as the communities in which they are located.
- We re-introduce the Accredited Landlord Scheme in Sunderland as a whole.
- We ensure that we use all enforcement powers to tackle the problems associated with problematic or empty properties
- Empower residents through housing to ensure they have a stable base which also supports social mobility and works to break down the perceived inequalities associated with social housing”.

Councillor Doyle, duly seconded by Councillor M. Dixon, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

To insert, after the final bullet point, the following:

“The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration will write to each councillor as soon as possible, but by no later than the next meeting of the full Council, to explain exactly how she will deliver upon each of the proposals outlined in this motion and to set out in detail how she envisages these ideas working in practice.”

So the amended motion would read:-

“Housing is a fundamental need and decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this city. The reason is simple that without stable housing everything else just falls apart. Housing is not only a roof, but social housing provides social innovation, employment services, health services, social inclusion ensuing that the quality of life of its residents is improved.

We ask this council to resolve that they implement the following housing commitments:

- That we prioritise the building of Social Housing and that the builds are to a high specification and lead the way forward using recycled material and green energy in a bid to move towards a stable and de-carbonised economy.
- That the needs of our residents are met by any housing built and future-proofs the city’s housing stock.
- That we explore all ownership methods for social housing.
- Ensure that all 2,500 empty properties in Sunderland are brought back into use
- Develop a Homelessness Charter
- Work to prevent homelessness and develop a strategy of sign-posting before people are made homeless.
- Ensure that Veterans and children are a priority in our housing strategies
- Ensure domestic violence sufferers who live in homes in Sunderland are afforded the support they need.
- Ensure that residents in private tenancies are fully supported.

- Work with all registered providers to ensure their stock is well maintained and that they develop schemes to ensure more social housing is available to residents
- We ensure that HMOs are licenced and that owners understand their commitment to the residents who live in them as well as the communities in which they are located.
- We re-introduce the Accredited Landlord Scheme in Sunderland as a whole.
- We ensure that we use all enforcement powers to tackle the problems associated with problematic or empty properties
- Empower residents through housing to ensure they have a stable base which also supports social mobility and works to break down the perceived inequalities associated with social housing
- The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration will write to each councillor as soon as possible, but by no later than the next meeting of the full Council, to explain exactly how she will deliver upon each of the proposals outlined in this motion and to set out in detail how she envisages these ideas working in practice”.

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

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Jenkins	Smith, G.
	Bewick	Francis	Mann	Wood, A.
	Blackett	Greener	McDonough	Wood, P.
	Crosby	Haswell	McKeith	
	Dixon, M	Hodson	Mullen	
	Doyle	Howe	Oliver	

And 44 Members voting against:-

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

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared to be carried with 63 Members voting in favour:-

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

And no members voting against

Accordingly it was: -

13. RESOLVED that:-

Housing is a fundamental need and decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this city. The reason is simple that without stable housing everything else just falls apart. Housing is not only a roof, but social housing provides social innovation, employment services, health services, social inclusion ensuing that the quality of life of its residents is improved.

We ask this council to resolve that they implement the following housing commitments:

- That we prioritise the building of Social Housing and that the builds are to a high specification and lead the way forward using recycled material and green energy in a bid to move towards a stable and de-carbonised economy.
- That the needs of our residents are met by any housing built and future-proofs the city's housing stock.
- That we explore all ownership methods for social housing.
- Ensure that all 2,500 empty properties in Sunderland are brought back into use
- Develop a Homelessness Charter
- Work to prevent homelessness and develop a strategy of sign-posting before people are made homeless.
- Ensure that Veterans and children are a priority in our housing strategies
- Ensure domestic violence sufferers who live in homes in Sunderland are afforded the support they need.
- Ensure that residents in private tenancies are fully supported.

- Work with all registered providers to ensure their stock is well maintained and that they develop schemes to ensure more social housing is available to residents
- We ensure that HMOs are licenced and that owners understand their commitment to the residents who live in them as well as the communities in which they are located.
- We re-introduce the Accredited Landlord Scheme in Sunderland as a whole.
- We ensure that we use all enforcement powers to tackle the problems associated with problematic or empty properties
- Empower residents through housing to ensure they have a stable base which also supports social mobility and works to break down the perceived inequalities associated with social housing

(iv) Messages of Hope on Bridges

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

“This Council will work with the community to design and install permanent messages of hope on major bridges in our city to help to prevent suicide and encourage those who are at risk of taking their own life to reconsider and access support”.

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

14. RESOLVED that:-

This Council will work with the community to design and install permanent messages of hope on major bridges in our city to help to prevent suicide and encourage those who are at risk of taking their own life to reconsider and access support.

(v) Timing of Council Meetings

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

“This Council will rescind the decision taken at the AGM to move the time of full council meetings to 4pm.

Full council will start at 6pm in order to allow members who work usual office hours to attend.”

Upon being put to the vote the motion was defeated with 19 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Jenkins	Oliver
	Bewick	Francis	Mann	Smith, G
	Blackett	Greener	McDonough	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M	Haswell	McKeith	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Howe	Mullen	

And 45 Members voting against:-

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

(vi) Leisure Facilities in Sunderland City Centre

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

“Leisure facilities are one of the key aspects of a city centre which form part of the ‘pull factor’ in drawing people into the area. Provision of a variety of leisure facilities also adds to the attraction of a retail environment and has the secondary benefit in drawing potential shoppers. Furthermore, the provision of good quality leisure facilities, offering opportunities to take part in physical activity, is a key tool in helping to encourage people to have active and healthy lives, reducing dependence on other hard-pressed services, and can also tackle social isolation.

This Council notes that:

- The former Crowtree Leisure Centre provided facilities in the city for residents to participate in ice skating, indoor bowls, squash and other activities;
- That the part-closure and subsequent demolition of the Crowtree Leisure Centre left residents without these facilities in the local area and now they must travel out of the area to take part in their sporting and leisure activities;
- Resident demand for a replacement leisure facility remains to this day.

This Council therefore calls on the chief executive to report on the feasibility of including a new public leisure facility in the city centre as part of the future Vaux and Crowtree site redevelopment plans or other city centre regeneration areas/projects.”

The Leader, duly seconded by Councillor Atkinson, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

Delete the second bullet point all together
Delete the last paragraph all together and replace it with:

“This council therefore calls upon the chief executive to update council on the ongoing plans to develop a new public leisure facility within the City Centre and the timescales involved in progressing this.”

So the amended motion would read:-

“Leisure facilities are one of the key aspects of a city centre which form part of the ‘pull factor’ in drawing people into the area. Provision of a variety of leisure facilities also adds to the attraction of a retail environment and has the secondary benefit in drawing potential shoppers. Furthermore, the provision of good quality leisure facilities, offering opportunities to take part in physical activity, is a key tool in helping to encourage people to have active and healthy lives, reducing dependence on other hard-pressed services, and can also tackle social isolation.

This Council notes that:

The former Crowtree Leisure Centre provided facilities in the city for residents to participate in ice skating, indoor bowls, squash and other activities;

Resident demand for a replacement leisure facility remains to this day.

This council therefore calls upon the chief executive to update council on the ongoing plans to develop a new public leisure facility within the City Centre and the timescales involved in progressing this.”

Upon being put to the vote the amended motion was declared to be carried with 63 Members voting in favour:-

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

And no Members voting against.

The Mayor read out the amended motion, which was agreed and accordingly it was:-

15. RESOLVED that:-

Leisure facilities are one of the key aspects of a city centre which form part of the 'pull factor' in drawing people into the area. Provision of a variety of leisure facilities also adds to the attraction of a retail environment and has the secondary benefit in drawing potential shoppers. Furthermore, the provision of good quality leisure facilities, offering opportunities to take part in physical activity, is a key tool in helping to encourage people to have active and healthy lives, reducing dependence on other hard-pressed services, and can also tackle social isolation.

This Council notes that:

The former Crowtree Leisure Centre provided facilities in the city for residents to participate in ice skating, indoor bowls, squash and other activities;

Resident demand for a replacement leisure facility remains to this day.

This council therefore calls upon the chief executive to update council on the ongoing plans to develop a new public leisure facility within the City Centre and the timescales involved in progressing this

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 and accordingly, it was:-

16. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report and supplementary report which requested the Council to consider appointments to a number of outside bodies.

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

17. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The nominations of Councillors Richard Elvin and Sheila Quigley as the representatives of Hetton Town Council on the Standards Committee be confirmed;

- (ii) Councillor N. MacKnight be appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board in place of Councillor Johnston;
- (iii) The nomination of Councillor Dr. G. Walker to the Council of Governors for the South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and Councillor Chequer to the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust be approved; and
- (iv) The appointment of the following trustees to the Parker Trust CIO and to also serve as trustees of Parker Memorial Home be approved:-

Susan Rackstraw
Kay Taylor
Pat Dyball
Andrea Soloman
Michael Braban
Ian Galbraith
Alison Smith.

Further that the Assistant Director of Community Resilience, in consultation with the Chair of the Parker Trust, be authorised to conduct a further recruitment process, in due course, to identify suitable candidates for recommendation to Council for appointment to the positions of trustee, in order to increase the proportion of independent trustees on each body.

- (v) Councillor Scullion be appointed to the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Scanlan; and
- (vi) Councillor Scanlan be appointed to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Scullion.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,
Mayor.