

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A Smith) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

Councillors	Ali	Farthing	McDonough	Snowdon, D
	Ayre	Fletcher	Miller, F	Snowdon, D.E.
	Bewick	Foster	Miller, G.	Speding
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.W.L	Mordey	Stewart
	Bond	Gibson, P.	Morrissey	Thornton
	Burnicle	Greener	Mullen	Trueman, H.
	Burrell	Guy	Nicholson	Tye
	Chequer	Hartnack	O'Brien	Usher
	Crosby	Haswell	Peacock	Vera
	Curtis	Heron	Potts	Walker, M.
	Dixon	Herron	Price	Walker, P.
	Dodds	Johnston, K.	Reed	Warne
	Donaghy	Johnston, S.	Rowntree	Williams
	Doyle	Lauchlan	Samuels	Wood, A.
	Dunn	Laws	Scott	Wood, P.
	Edgeworth	Mann	Smith, G.	
	Fagan	Mason-Gage	Smith, P	

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Butler, Chisnall, Hodson, McKeith, Scanlan, S. Watson and Wilson together with Aldermen Forbes and Tate.

Minutes

6. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Item 8 – Election of the Leader of the Council – Councillor Haswell advised that Councillor Nicholson's vote against had not been recorded and requested that this be noted.

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

(i) Maintaining Excellence of the North East Better Health at Work Awards

Councillor Chequer informed the meeting that Sunderland Council had received the top level of the Better Health at Work Award which was Maintaining Excellence.

The Award recognised the efforts and achievements of the Council in addressing health issues within the workplace including areas where structured development was required to enhance staff wellbeing.

This was a fantastic achievement and recognition for the Council and all the hard work the Wellness Service do to help the staff stay well.

(ii) Platinum Jubilee Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Mayor informed the Council that Jill Colbert, Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services in Sunderland had been awarded the honour of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) after Children's Services was transformed from Inadequate to Outstanding in a national first and had helped to make a real difference to children's lives in the City.

The Council thanked all those who had worked so hard to achieve this transformation in Children's Services and congratulated Jill Colbert on this award.

Covid-19 – Verbal Update by the Leader of the Council

The Mayor invited the Leader to provide a verbal update on the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Leader began by stating that although the virus was still very much present, the Council, city and country were largely back to normal now. He paid tribute to colleagues and also to the Council's partners, for all the hard work and dedication that had gone into not only supporting the city and its people through the response phase and the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, but also the phenomenal effort and innovation that had gone into driving the beginnings of a strong recovery.

The Leader commented that it was simply a joy to see businesses open, children going to school and playing out, as well as those of GCSE and "A" level age actually sitting their exams. He was delighted that the Sunderland What's On Guide was brimming with events and activities, including some significant ones such as two international superstars, Ed Sheeran and Elton John, playing concerts in a packed-out Stadium of Light in the past couple of weeks.

The Leader added that Sunderland had led the way with the rollout of the vaccines and getting jabs into people's arms, and also the extraordinary acts of kindness and efforts of an army of volunteers helping with everything from food and essential items to dog walking, or simply making those all-important calls to check in with people living alone.

The Leader advised that the City now lives in the context of guidance nationally, rather than restrictions, so responsibility very much lay with all residents, individually and collectively, to keep doing the right thing when it came to living with Covid. The virus had not gone away and it could still cause harm. First of all, it could make particularly the more vulnerable people very poorly, and secondly, it was still causing all sorts of disruption as it spread, with people having to be away from work, school, caring responsibilities and other commitments.

The Leader informed Council that residents must continue to follow their consciences and keep themselves and those around them as safe as possible and that the guidance should continue to be followed including:-

- Getting all recommended doses of the Covid vaccine as soon as possible – it was never too late for people to start their vaccination course and when invited forward for further boosters, these were vitally important to keep protection levels up;
- Continuing to wear face coverings in enclosed and crowded public places would make a difference;
- Meeting up outside with others continued to be safest and if inside, good ventilation and opening a window would help blow Covid particles away;
- It was so important to stay at home when required – this really was a key step in reducing the spread of the virus;
- The advice remained that if anyone tested positive for Covid-19, they should remain at home and avoid contact with other people for five days after they had carried out a test. Those aged 18 and under were advised to stay home for three days;
- And finally, like face coverings and being in open spaces as much as possible, the hands part of 'hands, face, space' remained equally important with good hand hygiene and thorough washing recommended at all times, and following the advice of "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it"

The Leader informed Council that at the end of last week, ONS data showed that infections in the UK had risen from the week before, as they had done in the week or two before that, and 1 in 50 people in England had Covid-19. So whilst it was being described as post-pandemic, this was a warning that there was the potential for continued increases in infection rates, and therefore everyone should do all they could to keep themselves and those around them safe and well, and people's lives and livelihoods on track.

The Leader suggested that this be his final, regular Covid-19 update to Council for now and concluded that they would keep the situation under close scrutiny, and should things change, and a significant rise in infection rates be experienced with the associated impacts, he would update Council again at that time.

7. RESOLVED that the update from the Leader be noted.

Citywide approach to carbon reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader provided an update regarding ongoing progress being made in relation to carbon neutral goals. Work had continued to progress in each of the strategic priority areas set out in the Low Carbon Framework in recent months which included:-

- The Council's Low Carbon Action Plan (which was first published in January 2021) was being updated currently. The updated Action Plan would take on board the learning since the original Action Plan was adopted and set out a series of over-arching objectives and individual actions within each strategic priority area. Delivery would be monitored against key milestones and targets, and reported on an annual basis, as work continued towards the ambitious targets in this important area.
- The Deputy Leader wished to recap on the first year of developing the North East Community Forest. The Council had secured £193,000 in external funding, which had been used to plant more than 17,000 trees across 5 schemes, and this had included 1.3km of new hedgerow, 2 new orchards and over 7 hectares of wildflower meadow;
- In addition, the £250,000 Green Recovery Challenge Fund project - 'Healing Nature' - was completed in March 2022. Public events were attended by more than 800 people, and over 500 children from 29 schools engaged with nature through the project. Ten wildlife sites were improved in Sunderland with works including scrub removal, pond and wet grassland restoration and access improvements;
- Furthermore, £149,462 funding had been awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support a Development Phase for a new project called 'Link Together'. The Coalfield Area Committee had also provided £20,000 match funding towards the project that ultimately aimed to restore nature in 13 green spaces across Sunderland's Coalfield area. The project would work closely with local residents, as well as the Sunderland GP Alliance and Wear Rivers Trust, and provide opportunities to deliver schemes through volunteering and social prescribing that would also support individual physical and mental well-being;
- In green economy terms, the regional BEST project - which provided grant funding for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) - was now complete. Sunderland had outperformed all of the other regional Local Authorities with the highest number of SMEs assisted (44), and with a total value of £205,340 of energy efficiency works installed;
- Through the city-wide ERDF-funded BREEZ project, 124 SMEs had been engaged with to date with support including energy audits, advice and guidance and grants awarded for lighting, heating, insulation and solar PV improvements. There were currently 28 new applications being considered and grant funding was available until July 2023;
- As the end of the ECO3 and ECO FLEX delivery process was approaching in Sunderland, the Deputy Leader reported that the Council had assisted 357 properties with heating and insulation measures. ECO4 was expected to launch in July 2022 and would be available until March 2026;

- Following a competitive tender process, £78,000 had been awarded to the Council to carry out a heat network feasibility study adjacent to Northern Spire. This would explore options for the cost-effective delivery of low carbon heat in the local area and support the sustainable redevelopment;
- Regarding Riverside Sunderland, the Council had completed market engagement and was currently finalising the specification to procure a drilling contractor, with a view to being on site and creating pilot boreholes as part of the mine-water heating project this year;
- In terms of active and low carbon transport, the Council had successfully received funding for 2 schemes under the Active Travel Fund. These initiatives proposed to introduce fully segregated cycling facilities on Pallion New Road and European Way, and also on Dame Dorothy Street. Subject to public consultation, the schemes could progress in the summer of 2023;
- The Council had also submitted an Expression of Interest for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme and had been in discussion with the Energy Savings Trust regarding potential support. The Sunderland residential project, if successful, included infrastructure to support EV Community Hubs located on-street (with over 100 charge-point sockets) and in Council-managed off-street car parks (with a further 115 sockets provided).
- In terms of reducing consumption and waste, the Council had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 'City to Sea' which was announced on World Refill Day (16th June) to launch a 'Refill Sunderland' scheme to connect consumers via an app to places they can eat, drink and shop without single use packaging. City Hall's Brew & Bake had already signed up to this initiative and the Council would be looking to sign-up more businesses during Plastic Free July and into the future.

And finally, in terms of engagement:

- In May the Council hosted a Low Carbon event in partnership with the University of the Third Age (U3A). The session was designed to share information on Low Carbon work across Sunderland to help engage residents in contributing to the citywide 2040 carbon neutral target. Delegates gave feedback and discussed topics, including local growing and recycling with follow-up activity planned to continue to increase recycling across the city;
- For the first time, following earlier incoming visits, the Council had been able to support young people from Sunderland College to travel to the city's German twin town, Essen to work with counterparts from THG high school on the CLIMATE project. Joint work between Essen and Sunderland students had included meeting with the European Green Capital Agency, a reception at the Town Hall of Essen, joint student-led projects, visiting the THG school, and exploring local sites in Essen. The project was co-financed by the city of Essen and its region, North Rhine Westphalia;
- Following the third meeting of the young persons' EGS Group – the Environmental Green & Sustainable Group - in March, a number of EGS group members had taken part in a practical volunteering session at the University's Space 2 Grow Community Garden, as requested by the young people. This had led into the preparations for the June meeting with the young people continuing to explore and contribute to topics of interest and feed into the city-wide 2030 Shadow Board; and

- Council Low Carbon and Active & Sustainable Travel team representatives attended a staff travel event at City Hall to promote cycling and active travel. The team met with employees and residents to discuss Low Carbon plans and commitments with a particular focus on travel, including the mobility hub, e-scooters, e-bikes, cycling and walking.

The Deputy Leader stated that she hoped this provided a useful and positive update on work that was ongoing within the Council and with its partners and that she would continue to provide updates to Council as appropriate going forward.

8. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meeting of the Council

(i) Armed Forces Act 2021

Councillor Tye, duly seconded by the Leader of the Council, moved the following motion: -

This Council stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant, welcomes the new Armed Forces Act, but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans here in Sunderland.

This council therefore notes with disappointment:

- that the Act which makes Sunderland Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- that Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.

This Council therefore resolves to continue the campaign with Forces charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

Councillor P.W.L. Gibson, duly seconded by Councillor Haswell, moved the following amendment: -

Bullet point 2 – delete “Labour led” and replace with “Labour-led”, after “into law” delete “but Conservative MPs” and replace with “were” and after “voted down” insert “by Conservative MPs.” Capitalise “These” and after plans insert “were”. After “Commonwealth” insert “citizen veterans”. After “Gurkha personnel.” insert “Council believes these should be extended to non-Commonwealth citizens who served with or materially assisted our armed forces in conflict zones such as Afghanistan

So that the amended motion would read as follows:

This Council stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant, welcomes the new Armed Forces Act, but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans here in Sunderland.

This Council therefore notes with disappointment:

- that the Act which makes Sunderland Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- that Labour-led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law were voted down by Conservative MPs. These plans were to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for Commonwealth citizen veterans and Gurkha personnel. Council believes these should be extended to non-Commonwealth citizens who served with or materially assisted our armed forces in conflict zones such as Afghanistan.

This Council therefore resolves to continue the campaign with Forces’ charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 30 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	Johnston, S	Potts
	Ayre	Dunn	Mann	Reed
	Bond	Edgeworth	McDonough	Smith, G
	Burnicle	Fagan	Morrissey	Vera
	Crosby	Gibson, P.W.L	Mullen	Wood, A.
	Curtis	Greener	Nicholson	Wood, P.
	Dixon, M.	Hartnack	O'Brien	
	Donaghy	Haswell	Peacock	

37 members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor A Smith)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Price	Thornton
	Burrell	Herron	Rowntree	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Tye
	Dodds	Lauchlan	Scott	Usher
	Farthing	Laws	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Gibson, P	Miller, G.	Speding	Williams
	Guy	Mordey	Stewart	

And 1 Abstention

Councillor Bewick

Councillor Donaghy, duly seconded by Councillor Peacock, moved the following amendment: -

To add to the end of the motion:

- 'This Council will therefore seek to join the award winning Armed Forces Outreach Scheme (AFOS), a partnership of the Local Government authorities dedicated to the pledge of the Armed Forces Covenant.'

So that the amended motion would read as follows:

This Council stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant, welcomes the new Armed Forces Act, but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans here in Sunderland.

This council therefore notes with disappointment:

- that the Act which makes Sunderland Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- that Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.

This Council therefore resolves to continue the campaign with Forces charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

- 'This Council will therefore seek to join the award winning Armed Forces Outreach Scheme (AFOS), a partnership of the Local Government authorities dedicated to the pledge of the Armed Forces Covenant.'

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 31 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Ali	Donaghy	Haswell	Peacock
	Ayre	Doyle	Johnston, S	Potts
	Bewick	Dunn	Mann	Reed
	Bond	Edgeworth	McDonough	Smith, G
	Burnicle	Fagan	Morrissey	Vera
	Crosby	Gibson, P.W.L	Mullen	Wood, A.
	Curtis	Greener	Nicholson	Wood, P.
	Dixon, M.	Hartnack	O'Brien	

37 members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor A Smith)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Price	Thornton
	Burrell	Herron	Rowntree	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Tye
	Dodds	Lauchlan	Scott	Usher
	Farthing	Laws	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Gibson, P	Miller, G.	Speding	Williams
	Guy	Mordey	Stewart	

The Mayor then put the Original Motion to the meeting and it was declared to be carried unanimously :-

It was therefore:-

9. **RESOLVED** that:-

This Council stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant, welcomes the new Armed Forces Act, but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans here in Sunderland.

This Council therefore notes with disappointment:

- that the Act which makes Sunderland Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- that Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.

This Council therefore resolves to continue the campaign with Forces charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans

Reception of Petitions

There were no petitions to be received.

Written Questions by Members of the Public under Rule 10

Pursuant to Rule 10 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.

Written Questions by Members of the Council under Rule 11

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by Members of the Council.

Area Arrangements Annual Report 2021/2022

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted the Area Arrangements Annual Report which summarised the work of the five area committees during 2021/2022.

Councillor Williams, duly seconded by Councillor P Walker, moved the Area Arrangements Annual Report and accordingly it was: -

- 10. RESOLVED that** the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees and their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Boards during 2021/2022 as outlined in the Annual Report be received and noted.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted the Scrutiny Annual Report which summarised the work of the scrutiny committees during 2021/2022.

Councillor D E Snowden, duly seconded by Councillor Foster, moved the Scrutiny Annual Report and accordingly it was: -

- 11. RESOLVED that** the report on the operation of the scrutiny function for 2021/2022 be received and noted.

Action taken 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 - Barnes Service Station, Durham Road**

At the meeting of the Council on 23rd March 2022, Councillor Antony Mullen presented a petition with 220 signatures. The petition set out an objection to planning application ref. 22/00399/FUL, which related to the demolition of the existing petrol station and the construction of a drive thru restaurant and associated works at Barnes Service Station, Durham Road.

The statement on the petition sheet reads as follows:

‘We the undersigned oppose the proposal to convert the service station at the Barnes into a drive through restaurant.

The site is completely unsuitable for the proposed development. The proposed site layout provided in relation to the application reveals that from the first service window of the drive through, the site could hold a queue of 12 cars at most before Durham Road would be clogged with queuing cars. It is unrealistic to assume that the site would not exceed this level of popularity especially as residents have witnessed the large queues at the Farringdon McDonalds site and the KFC Pennywell site that regularly see queues that bring the highway to a standstill. The proposed drive through would also see peak use at certain times of the day with lunchtime and early evening usage most likely. This could result in the blocking off of the main roads and bus routes in the area. In contrast the usage of the existing petrol filling station sees its demand spread out more evenly throughout the day.

The traffic is already dangerous in this area as highlighted most recently by the crash in late February at the junction of Silksworth Lane and the A690. Residents and road users already have to navigate a stretch of road where many routes converge as part of one of the major routes into the city. The proposed development would add to the chaos and present a substantially increased risk of accidents and serious injury in an area where children from St Marys Primary, Richard Avenue Primary and Bede College are regularly crossing and which regularly sees the elderly and families with young children attempting to get to Barnes Park. The lack of crossing points in this area could see a real risk that a child is run over when attempting to reach the proposed drive through due to the increased traffic.

The proximity of the development to local places of education: St Mary's RC Primary School, Richard Avenue Primary school and Bede College, with pupils from Thornhill and St Aidan's also using the area means that the development makes a mockery of the councils policies on takeaways and fast food as set out in the Sunderland Healthy City Plan 2020-2030 and the Core Strategy Development Plan. The area is already well served with a number of takeaways and any further food outlets in the area would adversely impact the health of residents and students.

Litter would adversely impact the area as can be seen from similar developments of this type (see Farringdon McDonalds, Pennywell KFC) where the impact of litter is felt a significant distance from the actual site. This and the loss of trees from the site will lead to a clear environmental and social loss from the proposed development. At a time when the Council has declared a climate emergency and Area Committees of the Council are endeavouring to improve the area for residents the loss of trees and adverse impacts of the development would set back these council priorities.

The supposed economic benefits claimed by the applicant are far outweighed by the economic losses that would be brought about by the development. The increased traffic problems in the area would adversely impact the existing businesses in the area such as the Toby Carvery as customers may be put off by the traffic issues. The traffic problems that would occur on one of the main routes into the city also has the potential to make Sunderland a worse place to do business if gridlock leads to difficulty for workers from outside the city getting to their place of work via one of the main routes into the city from the south.

Our signatures are to be found on the following pages. We live in a number of wards across the city but the traffic problems and dangers presented by the proposed development would impact upon us all'.

The petition is being treated as a formal representation in respect of planning application ref. 22/00399/FUL. The concerns raised within the petition that are 'material' planning considerations will be taken into account when assessing the acceptability, or otherwise, of the proposal ahead of its determination by the Planning and Highways Committee.

(ii) Petition – Request to reimburse residents of Vicarage Close for costs associated with damage done to properties by Persimmon Homes development

At the meeting of the Council on 23rd March 2022, Councillor Antony Mullen presented a petition with 47 signatures to members requesting that the Council reimburse residents of Vicarage Close for costs associated with alleged damage to their properties as a result of the adjacent Persimmon Homes housing development under construction.

The statement on the petition sheet reads as follows:

'Sunderland City Council should reimburse residents of Vicarage Close for costs associated with the damage done to their properties by the Persimmon development. We the undersigned support the above statement'.

After consideration by Council Officers, the outcome of the petition is as follows:-

To decline this petition as it is not considered appropriate for the Council, in this instance, to award individual resident's compensation for alleged damage caused as a direct result of the Persimmon Homes development. However, to ensure that any disruption caused, as a result of the development is kept to a minimum, the Council will continue to monitor the development to ensure all regulations/requirements/conditions imposed on the developers are being adhered to.

The Ward Councillors and Lead petitioner have been advised of the outcome.

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 had been no such instances since the last report.

12. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report and supplementary report seeking approval for a number of proposed changes to various committees and outside bodies which had arisen since the Annual Council meeting.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved the report and accordingly it was: -

13. RESOLVED that the Council: -

- (i) appoint Councillors R. Elvin and D. Geddis to serve as the Hetton Town Council representatives on the Standards Committee;
- (ii) appoint Councillor K. Johnston, with Councillor Scott as the substitute member, on the Tyne and Wear Strategic Flood Group;
- (iii) appoint Councillor Usher in place of Councillor Price on the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority;
- (iv) note the decision of the Leader of the Council to rename the Portfolio for the Deputy Leader as Deputy Leader Clean, Green City Portfolio Holder;
- (v) approve the nomination of the Leader as the main representative with the Deputy Leader and Clean, Green City Portfolio Holder as the substitute, on the NECA North East Joint Transport Committee and North East Joint Transport (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee
- (vi) note the following revisions to the nominations on the NECA North East Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the North East Joint Transport Audit Committee:-
 - Councillor D.E. Snowdon and Councillor P. Donaghy with Councillor S.Watson and Councillor J. Doyle as substitutes to the North East Joint Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in place of the current 2 Labour representatives Councillors Price and D. Snowdon with Councillors D.E. Snowdon and Watson as Substitutes; and
 - Councillor S. O'Brien with Councillor P. Edgeworth as substitute to the North East Joint Transport Audit Committee, in place of the current Labour representative, the Cabinet Secretary – Councillor Stewart with Councillor Williams as Substitute
- (vii) approve the appointment of Councillor T. Dodds to the Coalfield Area Committee, the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education and its Agreed Syllabus Conference; and
- (viii) appoint Councillor J. Warne to the vacancy on the Tyne and Wear Anti-Fascist Association.

Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Local Government Act 1972

The Chief Executive and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a joint report to propose interim arrangements for the allocation of Chief Finance Officer responsibilities.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved the report and accordingly it was: -

14. RESOLVED that the Assistant Director of Finance be designated as the Chief Finance Officer in accordance with section 151 Local Government Act 1972, as set out in the report, on an interim basis, pending a permanent appointment being made.

Notices of Motion

(i) City of Sanctuary

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Rowntree, duly seconded by Councillor Laws moved the following motion:-

“This Council recognises:

- the need for our city to promote the welfare and inclusion of all people fleeing violence, persecution or who are isolated and seeking safety
- the positive contribution of refugees and those seeking asylum can make in our local communities across the whole city.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Join the network of Cities and Towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people fleeing violence, persecution and become a recognised “City of Sanctuary”
- Promote the inclusion and welfare of all who find themselves, homeless, destitute or isolated.
- Continue to be a welcoming place of safety for all by encouraging integration, community cohesion and challenging discrimination of all kinds.
- Continue to promote diversity through recognition and celebration of our different cultures across Sunderland.
- To encourage other Anchor institutions and Key Stakeholders to become part of the City of Sanctuary movement.”

Councillor Mullen, duly seconded by Councillor Doyle moved the following amendment:-

To insert after the final bullet point, an additional bullet point which states:

- “Acknowledge that the Leader of the Council has previously publicly objected to an initiative to house refugees in Sunderland, because of the inappropriateness of the location. To overcome this, the Leader of the Council will therefore present a report to the next meeting of Council which details examples of accommodation in each ward which he would consider suitable for housing refugees. In cases where he concludes there is no suitable accommodation in any given ward, his report will state this explicitly.”

So that the amended motion would read:

“This Council recognises:

- the need for our city to promote the welfare and inclusion of all people fleeing violence, persecution or who are isolated and seeking safety
- the positive contribution of refugees and those seeking asylum can make in our local communities across the whole city.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Join the network of Cities and Towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people fleeing violence, persecution and become a recognised “City of Sanctuary”
- Promote the inclusion and welfare of all who find themselves, homeless, destitute or isolated.
- Continue to be a welcoming place of safety for all by encouraging integration, community cohesion and challenging discrimination of all kinds.
- Continue to promote diversity through recognition and celebration of our different cultures across Sunderland.
- To encourage other Anchor institutions and Key Stakeholders to become part of the City of Sanctuary movement.”
- Acknowledge that the Leader of the Council has previously publicly objected to an initiative to house refugees in Sunderland, because of the inappropriateness of the location. To overcome this, the Leader of the Council will therefore present a report to the next meeting of Council which details examples of accommodation in each ward which he would consider suitable for housing refugees. In cases where he concludes there is no suitable accommodation in any given ward, his report will state this explicitly.”

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

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	McDonough	Smith. G
	Ayre	Dunn	Morrissey	Vera
	Bewick	Greener	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Burnicle	Hartnack	Nicholson	
	Dixon, M.	Johnston, S	Peacock	
	Donaghy	Mann	Reed	

And 47 Members voting against:-

The Mayor (Councillor A Smith) in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

Councillors	Blackburn	Gibson, P.W.L	Mordey	Thornton
	Bond	Gibson, P.	O'Brien	Trueman, H.
	Burrell	Guy	Potts	Tye
	Chequer	Haswell	Price	Usher
	Crosby	Heron	Rowntree	Walker, M.
	Curtis	Herron	Samuels	Walker, P.
	Dodds	Johnston, K.	Scott	Warne
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Smith, P	Williams
	Fagan	Laws	Snowdon, D	Wood, A.
	Farthing	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D.E.	
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Speding	
	Foster	Miller, G.	Stewart	

The Mayor then put the Original Motion to the meeting and there being no indication of dissent, unanimous agreement was signalled by acclamation. However, a request was made by a member that an electronic vote be taken, to which the Mayor agreed and accordingly, an electronic vote was also taken which recorded as follows:-

62 members voting for:-

The Mayor (Councillor A Smith) in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D Trueman)

Councillors	Ali	Farthing	Mann	Snowdon, D
	Bewick	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D.E.
	Bond	Foster	McDonough	Speding
	Burnicle	Gibson, P.W.L	Mordey	Stewart
	Burrell	Gibson, P.	Morrissey	Thornton
	Chequer	Greener	Mullen	Trueman, H.
	Crosby	Guy	Nicholson	Tye
	Curtis	Hartnack	O'Brien	Usher
	Dixon	Haswell	Peacock	Vera
	Dodds	Heron	Potts	Walker, M.
	Donaghy	Herron	Reed	Walker, P.
	Doyle	Johnston, K.	Rowntree	Warne
	Dunn	Johnston, S.	Samuels	Williams
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Smith, G.	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Laws	Smith, P	Wood, P.

Note: After conclusion of the meeting, a number of councillors advised that they believed their vote may not have registered on the electronic voting system (which was being used for the first time at this meeting). The following named councillors requested a note be made that they had sought to vote “For” in favour of the motion. The councillors concerned were:-

Councillors	Ayre	F. Miller	Price
	Blackburn	G. Miller	Scott

It was therefore:-

15. RESOLVED that:-

This Council recognises:

- the need for our city to promote the welfare and inclusion of all people fleeing violence, persecution or who are isolated and seeking safety
- the positive contribution of refugees and those seeking asylum can make in our local communities across the whole city.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Join the network of Cities and Towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people fleeing violence, persecution and become a recognised “City of Sanctuary”
- Promote the inclusion and welfare of all who find themselves, homeless, destitute or isolated.
- Continue to be a welcoming place of safety for all by encouraging integration, community cohesion and challenging discrimination of all kinds.
- Continue to promote diversity through recognition and celebration of our different cultures across Sunderland.
- To encourage other Anchor institutions and Key Stakeholders to become part of the City of Sanctuary movement

The meeting adjourned at this point, having exceeded three hours’ duration.

(Signed) A SMITH,
Mayor.