

Sunderland City Council

At a Meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: - The Mayor (Councillor T Foster) in the Chair

Councillor	Allan	M. Forbes	Miller	Tate
	Ambrose	E. Gibson	Oliver	Timmins
	C.R. Anderson	P. Gibson	Richardson	Tye
	F. Anderson	Gofton	Rolph	J. Walker
	Bainbridge	Grey	J.B. Scott	P. Walker
	Bates	A. Hall	J. Scott	Wares
	Bell	Handy	Sidaway	P. Watson
	Blackburn	Higgins	Sleightholme	S. Watson
	Blyth	Howe	M. Smith	Whalen
	Bohill	Lawson	P. Smith	L. Williams
	Carthy	Leadbitter	Speding	Wilson
	Charlton	Macknight	J. Stephenson	N. Wright
	Dixon	Paul Maddison	W. Stephenson	T.H. Wright
	Fletcher	Peter Maddison	Stewart	Young
	D. Forbes	T. Martin	Symonds	

Notice

The Notice convening the Meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17th May, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record;
- (ii) the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th June, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor E. Gibson, Councillor J. Stephenson and Councillor W. Stephenson on the list of attendees; and
- (iii) the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22nd June, 2006 (copy tabled) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items in the Cabinet Report in respect of the interests indicated:-

Item 7 (i) – The Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)	Councillor Symonds	Member of the Children’s Trust
	Councillors Blyth, S. Watson and P. Watson	Members of the Teaching Primary Care Trust
	Councillors E. Gibson and M. Smith	Family members employed by Teaching Primary Care Trust
	Councillor P. Smith	Member of Connexions and Children’s Centre (Silksworth)
	Councillors P Smith and L. Williams	Members of the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership
Item 7 (ii) Preparing for Inspection: Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment Road Map, Use of Resources Action Plan & CPA Milestones 2006/7	Councillor Blyth, S. Watson and P. Watson	Members of the Teaching Primary Care Trust
	Councillors Bohill, J. Scott, P Walker, S, Watson and L Williams	Members of the Empire Theatre Trust
	Councillor L. Williams	School Governor and Member of the BSF Project
	Councillors E. Gibson and	Family members

	M. Smith	employed by Teaching Primary Care Trust
	Councillors P Smith and L. Williams	Members of the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Partnership
Item 7 (ii) - Preparing for Inspection: Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment Road Map, Use of Resources Action Plan & CPA Milestones 2006/7 and (iv) – Hetton Downs Area Action Plan.	Councillors Bates, D. Forbes, P. Gibson, Grey, A. Hall, Higgins, W.F. Stephenson, J. Walker, Wares.	Members of the Sunderland Housing Group
	Councillors E Gibson and J. Stephenson	Husbands are Members of Sunderland Housing Group
	Councillor P. Walker	Sunderland Housing Group Employee
	Councillor A. Wilson	Member of St. Luke's Neighbourhood Project
Item 7 (iii) – Report of Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2006-07	Councillor Symonds	Safer Sunderland Partnership.

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Mr. Roland Boyes Deceased

The Mayor advised the Council of the recent death of the former MP for Houghton and Washington Mr. Roland Boyes.

Members and Officers joined the Mayor to stand in silence for a minute as a mark of respect.

(ii) Washington DC – Friendship Agreement

The Leader of the Council presented the Mayor with a crystal globe given by the Mayor of Washington DC following the Agreement of Friendship between the City of Sunderland and Washington DC signed by the Mayor of Washington DC (Anthony Williams) and the Leader of the Council on Tuesday, 20th June, 2006.

(iii) Washington DC – George Washington

Councillor Speding presented the Mayor with a copy of the transcript of George Washington's last Will and Testament which had been prepared to mark the signing of the Friendship Agreement by the Office of Public Records, District of Columbia.

(iv) Bill Crawford OBE

The Mayor invited Members and Officers to join him in congratulating the Council's Elections Officer, Mr. Bill Crawford, in being awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Awards.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions submitted by the Councillors respectively named be received and referred for consideration as indicated:-

- (i) Councillor F. Anderson – petition requesting the consideration of traffic calming options for Wordsworth Avenue and South View, Easington Lane – Director of Development and Regeneration; and
- (ii) Councillor MacKnight – petition requesting an investigation into the speed cushions on Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Washington due to the noise and vibrations the properties in the vicinity suffered when large vehicles used the road - Director of Development and Regeneration.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Arnott, Mrs. J. Heron, R. Heron, Mann, Morrissey, Porthouse, L. Scott, Tansey, Trueman, J. Walton, Mrs. L. Walton, Wood and B. Williams.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) presenting the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009.

They had also referred the report to the Children's Services Review Committee for advice and consideration and it had been agreed to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan. It was also noted that a Statutory Instrument to be made in March 2006 would require the Plan to be approved by Council as well as the Executive in due course.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended that the Children and Young People's Plan be approved by Council.

2. Preparing for Inspection : Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment Road Map, Use of Resources Action Plan and CPA Key Milestones 2006/07

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive and the City Treasurer (copy circulated) outlining how the Council, through its performance management framework was taking action to secure improvement and maintain its 4 star (previously 'Excellent') status and direction of travel judgement in respect of which the Council was currently judged as "improving well".

The report had also requested approval for the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan (including the updated Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money') and outlined the Key CPA Milestones during 2006/07 that would contribute to the Council's CPA Rating in 2006 and 2007 (including inspection activity, self-assessments, and the submission of performance information).

The report had been referred to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee for advice and consideration. The Review Committee had noted the Performance Management Framework to secure and maintain the Council's 4-star status and direction of travel judgement, and the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan, including the updated Value for Money Framework.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map, as detailed in Appendix A, and Use of

Resources Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix B, including the updated Value for Money Framework 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money', which would contribute to the Council securing improvements in those themes and issues identified in the Summary CPA Road Map.

3. Sunderland Youth Justice Plan

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) to:-

- (a) advise on the performance of Sunderland Youth Offending Service during the last year,
- (b) seek the approval of the business plan for 2006-07, in particular the delivery plan against key performance indicators, and
- (c) advise of the YOS inspection in November 2006 and the links to the Joint Area Review and the Council's CPA rating.

They had also referred the report to the Children's Services Review Committee for further advice and consideration. The Review Committee had noted the report.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) endorse the excellent performance of the YOS in 2005-06, both for its key performance and its grading by the Youth Justice Board against its breadth of performance,
- (ii) endorse the innovation and positive engagement with the local media resulting in a significant number of positive news stories,
- (iii) approve the financial planning for 2006-07,
- (iv) approve the delivery plan for 2006-07, and
- (v) approve the priorities determined by the YOS management board.

4. Hetton Downs Area Action Plan : Report on Options and Issues for Consultation

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy circulated) on the consultants' Report on Options and Issues for Development in the Hetton Downs area and had sought that the report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis of public consultation to identify a

preferred option to be taken forward in the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the area.

A report on the matter had also been considered by the Environmental and Planning Review Committee and the Cabinet had referred the report to the Regeneration and Community Review Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The Environmental and Planning Review Committee had felt that it was important that the public were consulted at all times and were aware of any developments that were happening. The Review Committee then noted the report.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended to Council that the Report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis for public consultation.

RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet, together with the views of the Review Committees be approved and adopted.

Written Questions

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.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the undermentioned reports on action taken in relation to petitions which had been presented to the Council:-

- (i) **Petition to erect 'No Ball Games Allowed' signs on six sites in the Farringdon area. Presented by Councillor S. Porthouse on 28th September, 2005**

The Director of Development and Regeneration had forwarded the petition to the Sunderland Housing Group who had decided not to erect the 'No Ball Games Allowed' signs as the grassed areas detailed in the petitions served a useful purpose in providing essential safe playing areas to the children living in Farringdon. The lead petitioner had been notified of the decision.

- (ii) **Petition from the residents of Lakeside Village to protest against the changes to bus services. Presented by Councillor Porthouse on 28th September, 2005**

The Passenger Transport Authority had considered the petition and decided that with the continued availability of commercial services, albeit including changing buses in a few cases, to meet residents travel requirements, there was no

justification for any action to be taken by NEXUS to secure any additional service. The lead petitioner had been notified of the decision.

Review Committees – End of Year Reports 2005/2006

The City Solicitor submitted End of Year Reports (copies circulated) for the year 2005/2006 in respect of the following Committees:-

- (i) Culture and Leisure Review Committee
- (ii) Children's Services Review Committee
- (iii) Environmental and Planning Review Committee
- (iv) Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee
- (v) Regeneration and Community Review Committee
- (vi) Health and Well-Being Review Committee

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the End of Year Reports be received and noted.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Signed) T. FOSTER,
Mayor.