

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 23rd MARCH, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor N Wright)

Councillors	Allan	Fairs	Mordey	Tye
	Anderson	Fletcher	Morrissey	Vardy
	Ball	Forbes, M.	Padgett	Wake
	Bell	Foster	Richardson, D.	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Francis	Rolph	Walker
	Bonallie	Gibson, E.	Scaplehorn	Walton, J.
	Chamberlin	Gibson, P.	Scott, J	Walton, L.
	Charlton	Gofton	Shattock	Watson, P.
	Copeland	Hall, A.	Smith, D.	Watson, S.
	Dixon, M.	Heron	Smith, P.	Williams
	Dixon, P.	Kay	Snowdon	Wilson, A.
	Ellis	Kelly	Speding	Wilson, D.
	Emerson	Martin, L.	Tate	Wood
	Errington	McLennan	Trueman, D.	Wright, A.
	Essl	Miller	Trueman, H.	Wright, T.

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 2nd March, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the under mentioned items of business for the reasons respectively indicated:-

Item 11 – Notice of Motion – Tyne and Wear Metro System	Councillor Wood	Member of Tyne and Wear Integrated transport Authority
Item 12 (ii) – Appointments to Outside Bodies – Gentoo Sunderland Ltd	Councillor Bonallie, Emerson and Snowdon	Nominee to sit on the Board of Directors of Gentoo Sunderland Limited.

Mayor's Announcements

(i) Disasters in Japan

The Mayor referred to the recent disasters in Japan and asked the Council to join him in expressing deepest sympathy to colleagues in Japan, their friends and families as well as communities throughout Japan at such a difficult time. He advised that letters of sympathy and support had been sent from the Council to the City's Japanese businesses.

The Leader of the Council concurred with the sentiments of the Mayor and reminded Council that Sunderland had a particular empathy with the people of Japan arising from the City's special relationship with Nissan and key component companies. He advised that Nissan was working with the Red Cross to raise aid for the stricken communities and asked Council to agree to authorise the Chief Executive to make an appropriate donation via Nissan. The Leaders of the Opposition Groups, together with Councillor Dixon endorsed the comments of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council and it was:-

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be authorised to make an appropriate donation to the Red Cross, via Nissan, in support of the people of Japan.

(ii) Retirement of Councillor Jim Scott

The Mayor advised that Councillor Jim Scott had retired from office and, on behalf of the Council; he expressed gratitude for his past service and wished him well for the future.

(iii) Youth Almighty Project

Councillor Tye advised that the Youth Almighty Project, the Silksworth and Barnes wards' provider of youth provision on behalf of the City Council had won this year's High Sheriff Awards. The city council along with Youth Almighty had shown to the region how youth work could be delivered in partnership with successful results for both the residents of the city and the young people themselves. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved.

The Mayor acknowledged the award on behalf of the Council.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petition, submitted by the Councillor named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, to the Chief Officer indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor Errington – petition requesting to have the footpath on the entrance /exit to Vicarsholme Close closed – Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors I. Cuthbert, D. Forbes, G. Hall, Howe, Maddison, Oliver, I. Richardson, Wake, Wakefield and P. Walker.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Annual Report 2010

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services (copy attached) on the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Annual Report (2009-2010) which had set out 10 priorities, actions and progress made.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve the CYPP Annual Report (2010).

They had also referred the report to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the Council to approve the CYPP Annual Report 2010

RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet and the views of the Scrutiny Committee be approved and adopted.

The Standards Committee reported as follows:-

1. Protocol for Local Authority Partnership Working

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services informing of a Partnership Behaviour Protocol which has been developed by Standards for England.

Accordingly the Standards Committee had recommended that the Partnership Behaviour Protocol be commended to the Council as a supplement to the Council's Code of Practice on Partnerships and that as part of the process of inviting tenders and/or developing future partnership arrangements, in each case consideration be given to the option of incorporation of the protocol, adapted as appropriate, to fit the circumstances.

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee be approved and adopted.

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Action Taken on Petitions

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

- (i) **Petition from residents of The Leazes, Millfield requesting the extension of the existing waiting restrictions. Presented by Councillor Paul Dixon on 14th June 2010**

The Executive Director of City Services had considered the petition and determined that the petitioners' request for the waiting restrictions at the entrance to The Leazes to be extended by four metres should be declined as the accident record and parking levels suggested that no long term benefit would be realised from the requisite change to the associated traffic regulation order. Petitioners were advised that the Chief Constable should be informed of the indiscriminate parking at the entrance to The Leazes in order that he might take the necessary enforcement action.

Councillor Paul Dixon and the lead petitioner had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

- (ii) **Petition from residents of Coquet, Rickleton, Washington requesting the introduction of traffic calming measures. Presented by Councillor Graeme Miller on 24th September 2008**

The Executive Director of City Services had considered the petition and determined that the petitioners' request for the introduction of traffic calming measures in Coquet should be declined as the measures were not justified given the low volume and speeds of traffic as well as there being no recorded injury accidents in the three year period up to 1st September 2010.

Councillor Graeme Miller and the lead petitioner had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iii) Petition from residents of Rockville, Fulwell requesting that in future people attending the Airshow should not be allowed to park in Rockville, which is purely a residential street. Presented by Councillor George Howe on 29th September 2010

The Executive Director of City Services had considered the petition and determined that the petitioners' request for people to be prevented from parking in Rockville, should be declined as there had been no road safety or other reason to do so. Petitioners were advised that the Chief Constable should be informed of the indiscriminate or obstructive parking across resident's driveways in order that he might take the necessary enforcement action.

Councillor George Howe and the lead petitioner had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iv) Petition from residents of the 39 houses in Durham Street, Fence Houses requesting assistance in the upgrading of the street at the rear of Durham Street. Presented by Councillors Sheila Ellis and Kathryn Rolph on 31st March 2010

The Executive Director of City Services had received the petition in relation to this matter on 12th April 2010. A site visit had been undertaken on 28th May 2010 by Houghton Ward Councillors, D. Richardson, K. Rolph, and Councillor J. Blackburn Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City together with Council Officers.

An estimate had been prepared for the works required to upgrade the private street/s with an appropriate road surface, highway drainage and street lighting. This estimate had been used to determine apportionment of costs between the residents and the City Council.

A second issue relating to the deterioration in the condition of the lane to the rear of Durham Street by surface water run off from adjoining land had also been investigated.

Following receipt of the petition, the Executive Director of City Services, in consultation with local ward members and the portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City had considered the findings and recommendations of the report.

Due to the level of funding required and in view of the Council's limited budget, the petitioners were advised that the Council was unable to offer any financial assistance to upgrade the lane to the rear of Durham Street. The petitioners were also advised that the surface water issue relating to land adjoining the primary school playing field would be monitored and reviewed.

Councillors Kathryn Rolph, Sheila Ellis, Dennis Richardson and the Lead Petitioner had been notified.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – Enterprise Zones

Councillor L. Martin, seconded by Councillor Vardy, moved the following motion in relation to Enterprise Zones:-

“This Council believes that the best way to stimulate growth and create jobs in deprived areas is for the Government to give exemptions from tax charges in well-defined economic zones.

We therefore ask the Government to consider creating these zones in areas such as ours to enable us to grow the private sector and tackle welfare dependency”.

The Leader of the Council, seconded by the Deputy Leader, moved an amendment to delete "deprived" and insert "underprivileged", delete "ask" and insert "thank", delete "to consider creating" and insert "for introducing", delete "areas" and insert "today's budget", delete "such as ours" and insert "and resolve to campaign for one of the ten undesignated zones to be located within the City of Sunderland" and delete "tackle welfare dependency" and insert "give people without a job the dignity and social benefits that employment brings."

Upon being put to the meeting the amendment was carried. The new substantive motion having then been put to the meeting, it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council believes that the best way to stimulate growth and create jobs in underprivileged areas is for the Government to give exemptions from tax charges in well-defined economic zones.

We therefore thank the Government for introducing these zones in today's budget and resolve to campaign for one of the ten undesignated zones to be located within the City of Sunderland to enable us to grow the private sector and give people without a job the dignity and social benefits that employment brings.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Tyne and Wear Metro System

Councillor Wood, seconded by Councillor A. Wright, moved the following motion in relation to the Tyne and Wear Metro System:-

“This Council welcomes the coalition government’s commitment to the reinvigoration of the Tyne and Wear Metro system and looks forward to future extensions of the system, especially in Sunderland”.

Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor J. Scott moved an amendment that after the word “commitment to the” insert “previous Labour Government’s agreed”.

Upon being out to the meeting the amendment was carried. The new substantive motion having then been put to the meeting, it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council welcomes the Coalition Government's commitment to the previous Labour Government's agreed reinvigoration of the Tyne and Wear Metro System and looks forward to future extensions of the system, especially in Sunderland.

(iii) Notice of Motion – Regional Spatial Strategy

Councillor Wakefield, seconded by Councillor Ellis moved the following motion in relation to the Regional Spatial Strategy:-

“This Labour controlled Council continues to support the principles of the Regional Spatial Strategy put in place by the last Labour Government and resists the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles MP, attempts to dismantle the broad principles of the RSS.

And confirms that the RSS status of Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton-le-Hole as “Stand Alone” Regeneration Towns in the Durham Coalfield Regeneration Area, which the Labour Government insisted on three separate occasions, that they are, is maintained.”

Councillor Rolph, seconded by Councillor Anderson moved an amendment that the whole of the first paragraph be deleted. In second paragraph delete “and confirms the RSS” and replace with “insisted on three separate occasions that they are, is maintained”.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried, with 57 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor N Wright)

Councillors	Allan	Fairs	Mordey	Trueman, H.
	Anderson	Fletcher	Kelly	Tye
	Ball	Forbes, M	Padgett	Vardy
	Bell	Foster	Richardson, D.	Walton, J
	Blackburn	Forbes, M	Rolph	Walton, L
	Bonallie	Francis	Scaplehorn	Watson, P.
	Chamberlin	Gibson, E.	Scott, J	Watson, S.
	Charlton	Gibson, P.	Shattock	Williams
	Copeland	Gofton	Smith, D	Wilson, A.
	Dixon, M	Hall, A.	Smith, P.	Wakefield
	Dixon, P	Heron	Snowdon	Wilson, D.
	Emerson	Kay	Speding	Wright, A
	Errington	McClennan	Tate	Wright, T.
	Essl	Miller	Trueman, D.	

And 3 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors Ellis Smith, D Wake, E

Upon being put to the vote the new substantive motion was carried with 58 Members voting in favour, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor N Wright)

Councillors	Allan	Fairs	Mordey	Tye
	Anderson	Fletcher	Morrissey	Vardy
	Ball	Forbes, M	Padgett	Wake
	Bell	Foster	Rolph	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Francis	Scaplehorn	Walton, J
	Bonallie	Gibson, E.	Scott, J	Walton, L
	Chamberlin	Gibson, P.	Shattock	Watson, P.
	Charlton	Gofton	Smith, D	Watson, S.
	Copeland	Hall, A.	Smith, P.	Williams
	Dixon, M	Kay	Snowdon	Wilson, A.
	Dixon, P	Kelly	Speding	Wilson D
	Ellis	McClennan	Tate	Wood
	Emerson	Martin L	Trueman, D.	Wright A
	Errington	Miller	Trueman, H.	Wright, T.

And 3 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors Essl Heron Richardson, D

Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council supports the status of Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton-le-Hole as “Stand Alone” regeneration towns in the Durham Coalfield Regeneration Area, which the Labour Government steadfastly upheld on three separate occasions.

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.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Gentoo Sunderland Limited

The Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider nominations to seats on the Board of Directors of Gentoo Sunderland Limited.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Leader of the Council having moved that the recommendations contained in the report be approved, it was:-

RESOLVED that Councillors Bonallie, Emerson, J. Scott, Snowdon and T. Wright be nominated to the Board of Directors of Gentoo Sunderland Limited.

Prior to closing the meeting the Mayor expressed his thanks to those Members who would be retiring from the Council or who might not be re-elected in the forthcoming elections. He also thanked everyone for the support he had received for his chosen charities during his Mayoral Year.

(Signed) T. MARTIN,
Mayor.