

CITY HALL,
SUNDERLAND.
11 March 2022.

TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING of Sunderland City Council to be held in the **Council Chamber, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA** on **WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2022** at **4.00 p.m.** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business:-

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. To read the Notice convening the meeting. | - |
| 2. Apologies. | - |
| 3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held 2 March 2022 (copy attached). | 1 |
| 4. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any). | - |
| 5. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e). | - |
| 6. Covid-19 - Verbal Update by the Leader of the Council | - |
| 7. Citywide approach to carbon reduction – Verbal update by the Deputy Leader of the Council | - |
| 8. To consider the Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meeting of the Council held 26 January 2022 (copy attached). | 21 |

9. Reception of Petitions.	-
10. Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 10.	-
11. Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 11.	-
12. Report of the Human Resources Committee (copy attached).	25
13. To consider a report on action taken on petitions (copy attached).	41
14. To consider the following reports:-	
(i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached).	49
(ii) Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	51
15. To consider the attached Motions (copy attached).	57



PATRICK MELIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

Note it is intended that the meeting will be livestreamed for the public to view on the Council's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/Kppv9r-cn9Y>



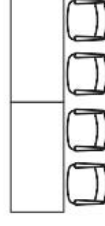
Honorary Aldermen

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Governance Services



E. Waugh
Asst Dir Law & Governance

H. Trueman
Mayor

P. Mellia
Chief Executive

A. Smith
Deputy Mayor

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022 at 4.00pm

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

Councillors	Ali	Foster	Mann	Smith, P
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D
	Blackett	Gibson, P	McDonough	Snowdon, D E
	Burnicle	Gibson, P W L	McKeith	Speding
	Butler	Greener	Miller, F	Stewart
	Chequer	Hartnack	Miller, G	Taylor
	Crosby	Haswell	Morrissey	Thornton
	Dixon	Heron	Mullen	Trueman, D
	Dodds	Hodson	O'Brien	Tye
	Donaghy	Howe	Peacock	Walker, M
	Doyle	Johnston, K	Price	Walker, P
	Dunn	Johnston, S	Reed	Warne
	Edgeworth	Lauchlan	Rowntree	Williams
	Fagan	Laws	Samuels	Wood, A
	Farthing	Leadbitter	Scanlan	Wood, P
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N	Scott	

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 Bewick, Essl, D. MacKnight, McClennan, Nicholson, Noble, Potts, G. Smith, Wilson and Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Tate.

Minutes

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Constitution – Role and Function of the Mayor, Councillor Hodson asked that his objection be recorded against comments that had been made by the Deputy Mayor, regarding his colleague, at the meeting of the Council held on 26 January, 2022.

Accordingly, it was:-

- 50. RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13 January 2022 and 26 January 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declaration of Interests

The following Councillors declared interests as follows:-

Cllr Blackburn	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Butler	Member of Unison
Cllr Chequer	Member of Unite and partner employed by Everyone Active
Cllr Doyle	Governor at Fulwell Junior School and employer provides consultancy on the Sunnyside Regeneration project
Cllr Farthing	Member of Unison
Cllr Fletcher	Member of Unison
Cllr P.W.L. Gibson	Member of N.A.S.U.W.T.
Cllr Heron	Council appointed representative to the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund
Cllr K. Johnston	Member of Unite and employed by Everyone Active
Cllr S. Johnston	Father is an Allotment Holder at Shields Road
Cllr Lauchlan	Member of Unite and Branch Secretary at Durham University and Chairman of the NE Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Committee for Education
Cllr Laws	Member of Unite
Cllr N. MacKnight	Member of Unison
Cllr Mason-Gage	Member of Unite and Union Representative
Cllr McKeith	Allotment Holder at High Southwick
Cllr F. Miller	Member of Unite and Union Representative
Cllr G. Miller	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Price	Council appointed representative on the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund

Cllr Rowntree	Member of Unison
Cllr Samuels	Member Unite and a Member of the Community Union.
Cllr A. Smith	Member of Unison
Cllr P. Smith	Member of G.M.B. and received donation for the 2021 Election Campaign
Cllr D.E. Snowden	Member of Unison
Cllr Speding	Member of G.M.B., Member of the Football Association and Chairman of the Durham County Football Association
Cllr Stewart	Member of Unison, Chairman of Governors of Willow Wood Primary School, Chairman of Bishopwearmouth Co-operative and Allotment Holder at Fulwell Allotments
Cllr Taylor	Member of Unite
Cllr Thornton	Allotment Holder at Hetton-Le-Hole
Cllr M. Walker	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr P. Walker	Member of Unison and Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme

In addition, during the course of the debate on the Conservative group amendment, Councillor Peter Gibson stated that he and Councillor E. Gibson live on Vicarage Close.

Announcements

Former Councillor Florence Anderson

It was with sadness that the Mayor referred Council to the recent death of Former Councillor Florence Anderson

Former Councillor Anderson was first elected in May 1991 for the Hetton ward and served on the Council until May 2016, serving as Deputy Leader of the Council from 2008 to 2010. Councillor Anderson served on many Council Committees including Cabinet and various Sub-Committees and was an active Ward Member who was involved with a number of local organisations.

People of Ukraine

The Mayor advised Council that he would be writing to the Mayor of Kyiv to express the city's solidarity with the people of his nation who were in our thoughts at this time.

The Mayor invited Council to join him in a moment's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague and as a mark of respect for lives lost in the Ukrainian conflict.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

That they had referred the initial proposals on the Revenue Budget to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- On 14 October 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 –2025/2026 report which was referred from the October Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted the budgetary information provided including the Medium-Term Financial Plan, Budget Planning Framework and Capital Strategy. The Committee acknowledges the current financial situation of the Council, including the spending pressures that exist.

The Committee also recognised the importance of robust budget consultation and engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that there was a clear understanding not only of the challenges and pressures that face the local authority, but also how resources were prioritised and assigned.

Finally, the Committee thanked officers and members for their continued work. The Committee would also continue to receive budgetary information and the opportunity to scrutinise these reports.

- On 9 December 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the report and recognised the continuing budget pressures that the Council faces. The Committee also acknowledged that a number of funding uncertainties remained as well as the continued impact, on a number of budget areas, from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee was satisfied that it would continue to receive updates on the budget including the outcome from the budget consultation process.

Finally, the Committee thanked Members and Officers for their continued efforts in developing a balanced budget in these difficult times.

- On 10 February 2022, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered Budget and Service Reports on Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2021/2022, Capital Programme 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2022/2023, including Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium-term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 reports which were referred from the February Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the financial information presented in the various reports. The Committee noted the ambitious capital programme as presented.

The Committee also recognised that there remain considerable financial pressures on the Council and its services and therefore noted the recommended Council Tax increase for 2022/23, which still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the budget consultation, noting the low level of responses from the public and that officers look to improve this response rate during future consultations.

The Committee also noted the comments that alternative group budgets would be tabled at the Council's budget setting meeting.

Finally, the Committee thanked Officers and Members for their continued efforts in developing these detailed budget reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders and had no further comments to make.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- On 9 December 2021, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 – 2025/2026 and Capital Strategy report which was referred from the November Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had considered the capital resources and commitments as well as the additional project proposals and was satisfied with the report and had no further comment to make.

That they had also submitted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and prudential indicators within the attached report numbered 1 to the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee:-

- On 4 February 2022, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023.

The Committee noted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 and the Prudential Treasury Management Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026.

The Committee noted the Borrowing and Investment Strategies contained within the report and that the Council continued to follow and adhere to fundamental principles in relation to the prudent investment of treasury balances.

The Committee commented on the current position with regard to rising interest rates and were satisfied that the Authority was suitably prepared to address potential challenges in relation to future borrowing, capital and cash flow requirements.

The Committee noted their responsibility for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies and that they would continue to receive quarterly performance reports.

Subsequently

The precept figures had been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 8 February 2022:

- The precept figures of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCCN) would mean an increase of 6.95% in the precept level for 2022/2023;
- The precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFR) would mean an increase of 1.99% in the precept level for 2022/2023; and
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council would mean an increase of 0% in the precept level for 2022/2023.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2022/2023 reflected the above notified 2022/2023 precept levels in respect of all of the Precepting Authorities and the figures as reported remained unchanged.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 below entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026”, Appendix F had not been printed with the item, but the recommendation, which included all of the substantive content of the report, was set out in full at item 3 of the report.

1. Capital Programme 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2022/2023, including Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026

That they had considered the attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services on:

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/2023;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026; and

- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/2023.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/2023;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/2023 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/2023.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026

That they had considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services which was at the following link [[Cabinet 8 February 2022](#)] on:

- (a) the overall revenue budget position for 2022/2023;
- (b) the projected reserves position as at 31st March 2022 and 31st March 2023 and advise on their sufficiency;
- (c) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2022/2023;
- (d) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2022/2023 to 2025/2026, and associated Council Efficiency strategy; and
- (e) any views received from residents, the local Business Sector, Trade Unions, Schools Forum, Change Council and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on the proposed budget.

The attached report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services to Council set out the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2022/2023 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 as recommended by Cabinet.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2022/2023 set out at Appendix J;
- (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 including Efficiency Strategy as set out in Appendix G and the potential use of Capital Receipts Flexibility set out at section 9 of the report.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2022/2023

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2022/2023 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2022/2023, and advised that the Council Tax is calculated using the tax bases for the areas of the City Council and Hetton Town Council as approved by Council on 26 January 2022, and setting out a number of resolutions required to be made to determine the Council Tax, including the confirmed precepts from the Major Precepting Authorities and Hetton Town Council.

They therefore recommended to Council: -

- (i) to confirm the council tax requirement for the Council for 2022/2023 for its own purposes is £114,706,404 (excluding Parish precepts) and which represents a 2.99% increase in council tax for 2022/2023. It should be noted that this includes the additional ringfenced social care precept of 1%.
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 26th January 2022 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
 - a) 72,161 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the above regulation of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its council tax base for the year (Item T).
 - b) 4,052 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the regulations, as the amount of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.
- (iii) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - a) £764,880,417 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b) £650,115,421 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- c) £114,764,996 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii) (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year including Parish precepts (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- d) £1,590.4020 being the amount at (iii) (c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T ((ii) (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £58,592 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 of the Act.
- f) £1,589.5900 being the amount at (iii) (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii) (e) above by the Item T ((ii) (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- g) £1,604.0500 being the amount given by adding to the amount at (iii) (f) above, the amount at (iii) (e) divided by the amount at (ii) (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.
- h) Charges relating to the Council

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,069.37	1,059.73
B	1,247.59	1,236.34
C	1,425.82	1,412.96
D	1,604.05	1,589.59
E	1,960.51	1,942.84
F	2,316.96	2,296.07
G	2,673.42	2,649.32
H	3,208.10	3,179.18

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii) (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (iv) it be noted that for the year 2022/2023, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria have confirmed the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings as follows:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	102.56	58.23
B	119.65	67.94
C	136.75	77.64
D	153.84	87.35
E	188.03	106.76
F	222.21	126.17
G	256.40	145.58
H	307.68	174.70

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii) (h) and (iv) above and having received confirmation of the precept in paragraph (iv), the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/2023 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,230.16	1,220.52
B	1,435.18	1,423.93
C	1,640.21	1,627.35
D	1,845.24	1,830.78
E	2,255.30	2,237.63
F	2,665.34	2,644.45
G	3,075.40	3,051.30
H	3,690.48	3,661.56

- (vi) To determine that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/2023 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed council tax increase for 2022/2023 means that the Council does not need to hold a referendum on its proposed council tax. The provisions set out in Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require all billing authorities (councils and precept authorities (i.e. Fire and Police authorities)) to hold a referendum on their proposed level of basic council tax each year if they exceed government guidelines set out annually.)

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

The following proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Conservative Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Mullen and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Revenue (Savings)

Cut Special Responsibility Allowances	£199,294
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge Deputy Leader and Cabinet Secretary roles, establish an Environmental Services Portfolio and move Transport into the Dynamic City brief • Reduce the Leader's SRA by £2,667 (leading to an automatic reduction in Majority Opposition Leader SRA) • Delete the Minority Opposition Leader's SRA • Delete the Deputy Cabinet Member posts • Reduce the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Chair SRA by £9,556 • Reduce the Thematic Scrutiny Chair SRAs – totalling £6,537 • Reduce the five Area Committee Chair SRAs – totalling £36,750 • Reduce the Licensing Committee Chair SRA by £5,369 • Reduce the Planning and Highways Chair SRAs – totalling £6,554 • Delete the SRAs for Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Co-ordinating, Licensing, and Area Committee - £41,846 • Reduce the Mayoral allowance by £7,500 and the Deputy Mayoral allowance by £6,000 • Delete the Adoptions Panel (£8,368) and Fostering Panel (£8,368) SRAs 	
Abolish councillors' expenses	£35,000
Trade union facility time reduction	£80,000
End Council funding to the Vibe Magazine	£20,000
Reduce the Events budget	£396,669
Reduce the Corporate Affairs and Comms budget	£400,000
Redirect part of the Business and Investment budget to a beautification scheme, including the £65,000 spent on Japan/America and international travel (as below)	£100,000
Re-allocate Neighbourhood Fund towards city-wide priorities (as below)	£539,076

Re-allocate part of the Carbon Reduction budget for tree and wildflower programme (as below)	£92,000
Re-allocate part of the Member Development Fund for Planning training (as below)	£3,000
TOTAL	£1,865,039

Revenue (Spending)

Reduction in Labour's Council Tax increase	£1,000,000
Introduce Park and Cemetery Wardens (x3)	£94,596
Tree-lined streets and wildflower planting programme	£92,000
Establish funding for residential areas when developments have a detrimental impact upon surrounding areas, initially sited at Vicarage Close for the duration of the Persimmon works	£30,000
Gully cleaning crew and fuel	£65,000
Free bin replacements when stolen, to be distributed via Area Committees and made available to all residents, not just those in receipt of LCTS as Labour's policy offers	£100,000
Introduce training for members of planning committees and achieve agreement among political groups that this will be a requirement of committee membership	£3,000
Introduce two trolley impound enforcement officers	£82,150
Remove the permit charge for second and third cars in CPMS schemes city-wide	£120,000
Retrofit public waste bins with smart sensors to eliminate overflowing	£100,000
Asset transfer of Southern Area Playing Fields to a trust established by Washington United FC	£5,549
Expand Council's arborist team (x2 senior arborists)	£70,244
Beautification programme to modernise and improve the visual and aesthetic appearance of shop fronts in Sunderland City Centre	£100,000
Expansion of CCTV monitoring capacity	£2,500
TOTAL	£1,865,039

Capital (Savings)

Reduction in the F Pit budget	£4,540,000
Re-allocate Open Spaces and Allotments Improvements budget (as below)	£40,000
Capital receipt from the sale of Roker Pods	£+
TOTAL	£4,580,000+

Capital (Spending)

Traffic light system at the Broadway roundabout	£2,000,000
Albany Park regeneration	£1,200,000
Gully cleaning vehicle	£164,000
Allocation from the Open Spaces and Allotments Improvement budget for new fencing at the Southern Area Playing Fields	£40,000
Trolley impound van	£60,000
Fund to replace Everyone Active equipment approaching end of use	£106,000
CCTV network around the Holiday Inn at Washington	£10,000
City-wide road resurfacing, pothole and pavement repair fund	£1,000,000
TOTAL	£4,580,000

Councillor Speding declared his interest in the amendment and left the meeting during its consideration, taking no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

The Conservative Group's proposed amendments to the Revenue and Capital Budgets were then put to the vote with 28 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Morrissey
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	Mullen
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	O'Brien
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Peacock
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Reed
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Haswell	McKeith	Wood, P.

36 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Heron	Rowntree	Taylor
	Butler	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Thornton
	Chequer	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Trueman, D.
	Dodds	Laws	Scott	Trueman, H.
	Farthing	MackKnight, N.	Smith, A.	Tye
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Stewart	Williams

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor Haswell.

The Amendment to the proposals was as follows: -

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget

2022/23 Revenue Budget Savings Proposals	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3, as outlined in proposal number 2	-100,000
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees, coterminous with parliamentary constituencies (giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs). Will also mean a reduction in the number of new Neighbourhood Boards as only 3 Vice Chairs to Chair them)	-33,254
Review and reduction of basic and special responsibility allowances (SRAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Deputy Cabinet Members Remove Vice Chair Scrutiny Coordinating Committee Reduction in SRAs of all other roles 15% Reduce Basic Allowance by 5% Roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be replaced by unpaid elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and allowances removed Reduce Councillors' expenses, food and drink provision, subsistence allowance and broadband and home phone allowances 	-235,114
Reduce Corporate Communications budget	-384,620
Remove budget for carbon reduction	-1,000,000
Reduce spending on existing tobacco control and alcohol denormalization programmes and refocus Council's spending towards	0

an assistance programme to be made available free of charge to city residents and small and medium-sized enterprises in City Council area. Scheme must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free counselling sessions • Life event support • Addiction support • Quitting and reduction advice • Healthy lifestyle support 	
TOTAL	-1,752,988

2022/23 Revenue Budget Priority Investments	£
Reduce Council Tax rise by 1%	1,113,000
Reverse the planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2022/23	2,500
Increased funding for disabled education support (Travel or IT)	100,000
Introduce a single free bulky item collection service for those in receipt of council tax support	160,000
Introduce a discretionary fund to allow for the increasing of lighting levels or installation of additional lighting for partially sighted residents as part of Health & Social Care budget	8,000
Introduce single free annual visitor parking permit in permit parking zones for carless households	50,000
Reverse the 2022/23 Brown Bin charge increase	15,000
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Resident Parking Permits	0
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Brown Bin service	0
Reinstate voluntary community sector contracts support for agencies supporting disabled and young people	65,000
Following the Environmental Services Staffing Review, allocate a further £157,660 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens)	157,660
Museum and Winter Gardens - increase budget for community arts participation.	81,828
TOTAL	1,752,988

Amendment 2 – Capital Budget

2022/23 Capital Budget Savings Proposals	£
CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of £10,660,000 from this budget	- 10,660,000
TOTAL	10,660,000

2022/23 Capital Budget Priority Investments	£
<p>Establish a working group to put together a 5-year Leisure Investment Strategy for Sunderland and Washington, with a budget to make improvements to public leisure space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an annual fund for maintenance and improvement of smaller suburban parks (£200,000 per year for 5 years) • Enhancing the existing Cycle Way investment scheme – including breaking ground on a keynote route linking the Riverside development with a Hylton Road cycleway to Pennywell Industrial Estate • Establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton, and Washington • Acquiring and/or developing a city centre skatepark and investigating providing further skatepark facilities at sites around the City Council area • Feasibility study for the acquisition and/or development of a motocross track • Budget for strategic working group (£30,000) 	10,000,000
Establishment of a working group and feasibility study to be carried out on derelict and problem garages in residential areas	30,000
Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford/Pennywell area	30,000
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill	500,000
Purchase of additional refuse vehicle to support free bulky item collection service	100,000
TOTAL reallocated from CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments	10,660,000

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats Group in Opposition was put to the vote with 27 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Mullen
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	O'Brien
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	Peacock
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Reed
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Wood, A.
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Haswell	Morrissey	

34 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Johnston, K.	Samuels	Taylor
	Butler	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Thornton
	Dodds	Laws	Scott	Trueman, D.
	Farthing	MacKnight, N.	Smith, A.	Trueman, H.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, P.	Tye
	Foster	Miller, F.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, M.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.E.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Stewart	Warne
	Heron	Rowntree		

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

The original motion that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted was then put to the vote with 33 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Johnston, K.	Rowntree	Stewart
	Butler	Lauchlan	Samuels	Thornton
	Dodds	Laws	Scanlan	Trueman, D.
	Farthing	MacKnight, N.	Scott	Trueman, H.
	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Smith, A.	Tye
	Foster	Miller, F.	Smith, P.	Walker, M.
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Snowdon, D.	Walker, P.
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Snowdon, D.E.	Warne
	Heron			

28 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Ali	Dunn	Hodson	Morrissey
	Blackett	Edgeworth	Howe	Mullen
	Burnicle	Fagan	Johnston, S.	O'Brien
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Leadbitter	Peacock
	Dixon, M.	Greener	Mann	Reed
	Donaghy	Hartnack	McDonough	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Haswell	McKeith	Wood, P.

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly it was: -

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

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Decision to Opt-In to the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments Managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

That the Audit and Governance Committee had given consideration to a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the invitation from Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to opt-in to the national sector-led arrangement for the appointment of external auditors for the period 2023/2024 to 2027/2028.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended Council to agree to become an opted-in authority to the national arrangement for the appointment of external auditors for the next appointing period.

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

52. RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Governance Committee be approved and adopted.

(Signed) H TRUEMAN,
Mayor.

***Motions on Notice
Outstanding from the
Last Ordinary Meeting of
the Council***

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned motions which are outstanding from the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 26 January 2022:-

1. Reform of Rent Charges

This Council notes the unequal status of rent charge payers compared to that of other freeholders or leaseholders. It recognises the potential for their exploitation by unscrupulous rent charge holders.

The Council agrees to develop a strategy to ensure that: (i) any rent charges introduced, acquired or managed by this Council and/or any of its wholly owned companies, joint ventures or any other delivery vehicles or organisations treat residents fairly and proportionately; and (ii) wherever possible residents subject to rent charges are able to have assets and services adopted by and provided by the Council for which they pay Council Tax.

The Council also asks the Chief Executive to lobby the Government, and ask local Parliamentarians to do likewise, to request amendments to legislation in order to reform rent charges. These reforms should include:

- In all future developments any rent charges should be set by and paid to a company limited by guarantee and owned by the residents.
- In existing developments, following a ballot from residents in which a majority agree, a company limited by guarantee owned by the residents shall be formed. The company's purpose will be to purchase the rent charge holders interest and to be paid rent charges by the residents.
- Where residents of existing developments vote against forming a company limited by guarantee they shall be protected by amendments to section 120-122 Law of Property Act 1925, so that:
 - A defaulter must be informed in writing of the arrears at the time and before any legal action.
 - Any action must be through the courts, with the charge payer having the right to contest the level of the charge or the standard of the service provided by the charge holder.
 - All charge holders and their agents must be registered and bound by a Code of Conduct
 - Charge payers must be informed of the names and business address of the charge holder and his agents. If the charge holder is a company or trust then the names and business addresses of the Secretary, Directors or Trustees must be provided.

Councillor P.W.L. Gibson (Proposer)
Councillor M. Haswell (Secunder)

Signed by:-

Councillor N. Hodson
Councillor M. Crosby
Councillor J. Potts

Councillor P. Edgeworth
Councillor H. Fagan

2. Working to achieve a greater policing outcome for Sunderland

This Council notes

- the Northumbria Police Force has seen its budget slashed by the Government in the name of Austerity by more than 31% between 2010/11 and 2018/19 and by March 2020 the annual cut in its budget amounted to over £144m pounds.
- the recent change of heart by government to fund additional police officers across the country but recognising Northumbria Police still continues to have a shortfall in officer numbers.
- the reduction in police numbers over this period have come at a time when expectations from local residents have increased, especially relating to police action to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

This Council recognises that Northumbria Police no longer have the resources to achieve all of the expectations demanded by local residents and that we can achieve much more by working in partnership with them and other stakeholders in this city, to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

We therefore call upon the Council to work jointly with Northumbria Police

- in supporting a permanent police presence in Washington, Coalfield and Sunderland City Centre that can be accessed by local residents
- to expand the successful SARA project based in Southwick to many other parts of the city
- to review how we can support the police through increased surveillance of anti-social behaviour hot spots via more CCTV, purchase and use of drone technology, together with a dedicated mobile traffic unit for our 20/30mph zones
- to produce an annual 'Respect Plan' for the City, detailing how the council and its partners will work collaboratively to tackle crime and the fear of crime.

Councillor G. Miller (Proposer)
Councillor F. Miller (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor C. Rowntree
Councillor P. Stewart
Councillor D.E. Snowden
Councillor S. Laws
Councillor T. Dodds
Councillor K. Mason-Gage
Councillor I. Scott
Councillor D. Wilson
Councillor J Price
Councillor J. Fletcher
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor P. Smith

Councillor L. Farthing
Councillor N. MacKnight
Councillor K. Johnston
Councillor A. Samuels
Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor K. Noble
Councillor J. Heron
Councillor M. Walker
Councillor A. Smith
Councillor L. Williams
Councillor S. Foster

Report of the Human Resources Committee

The HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Pay Policy Statement 2022-2023

That at the meeting of the Human Resources Committee to be held on 17 March 2022, the Committee will consider a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) on the Pay Policy Statement for 2022-2023 and seeking approval for its publication.

The report recommends the Human Resources Committee to recommend to Council that the Pay Policy Statement 2022-2023 be approved and published on the Council's website by 31 March 2022.

The Human Resources Committee's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

17 MARCH 2022

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022 - 23

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that HR Committee approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 23 March 2022, the Pay Policy Statement for 2022 - 23.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The HR Committee is invited to consider the information set out in this report and approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 23 March 2022, the Pay Policy Statement for 2022 -23.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement; to be updated, approved by full Council and published annually on the Authority's website. The Council has complied with this requirement each year since March 2012.
- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement now needs to be updated, approved by Council at their meeting on 23 March 2022 and published by 31st March 2022. The 2021 -22 Pay Policy is currently published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/pay-policy>.
- 3.3 There are other, related requirements which are set out here for background information. On 3rd October 2014 the Government issued a revised Local Government Transparency Code. This came into force on 31st October 2014 under Section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. As part of the Code, local authorities are now required to publish certain data sets. The HR implications of the mandatory information are the annual publication of:
- An **Organisation chart** covering employees in the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade).

- Annual publication of **Trade union facility time** (including total number and full time equivalent of staff who are union representatives, and the total number and full time equivalent of union representatives who devote at least 50% of their time to union activity.)
- Senior salaries.
- Pay multiple – the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

The information must be published at least annually and not later than one month after the year to which the data and information is applicable.

These data sets are published on the Council's website under Transparency alongside the Senior Pay information and can be accessed at:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk>.

- 3.4 In preparing the Pay Policy Statement for approval and publication, the Council must have regard to the guidance and supplementary guidance issued by the (former) DCLG:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85886/Final_Supplementary_Pay_Accountability_Guidance_20_Feb.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5956/2091042.pdf

- 3.5 Since 2018 requirements on Gender Pay Gap reporting apply to organisations with 250+ employees, in accordance with Regulations made in 2017 under the umbrella of the Equality Act 2010.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The proposed draft Pay Policy Statement 2022 -23 is attached as an Appendix to this report. The amendments in comparison with the 2021 -22 Pay Policy Statement are: changes to dates, a national increase in JNC pay rates, and minor changes to the presentation of the statement. The information contained in the Statement is required to be that which applies at the date of publication, i.e. 31st March 2022.
- 4.2 One way of measuring pay relationships is to use a pay multiple. It is mandatory to publish the Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the Council's workforce). This is shown in the pay policy statement. The highest paid is £194,474.00 and the median paid is £22,571 therefore the ratio is 8.62:1.

5. Reason for Decision

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 There are no alternative options recommended.

Sunderland City Council

Pay Policy Statement 2022-2023

1. Introduction and Purpose

This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of this statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of remuneration of the Council's most senior staff, i.e. 'chief officers' as defined by the relevant legislation.
- The remuneration of the lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of employees who are not Chief Officers.

This Pay Policy Statement has been approved by the Council and applies to the financial year 2022 – 2023.

The arrangements set out within this document do not extend to those employees who are employed within the control of school governing boards.

2. Other Legislation Relevant to Pay and Remuneration

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit, subject to Section 41 of the Localism Act 2011 (requirement for determinations relating to terms and conditions of chief officers to comply with the pay policy statement.)

In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations. There is also significant legislation relating to pensions and payments upon termination of employment.

Sunderland Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and is an equal opportunity employer. This Pay Policy Statement forms part of our policies to promote equality in pay practices. By ensuring transparency of senior pay and the relationship with pay of other employees, it will help ensure a fair approach which meets our equality objectives.

The Local Government Transparency Code 2014, published by the Government and which came into force on 31st October 2014 under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, builds on the requirement for local authorities in creating greater transparency through the publication of public data. This includes publishing details of senior employee salaries, including a list of responsibilities, the inclusion of bonus details for all senior employees whose salary exceeds £50,000 and publication of the data on the authority's website. In line with this Code, the pay multiple in this Pay Policy now measures the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

These related data sets are published annually, including:

- An Organisation chart covering the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade). [Senior employee information - Sunderland City Council](#)
- Senior Salaries – Senior employees (remuneration in the previous financial year, and Responsibilities). [Senior employee information - Sunderland City Council](#)
- Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the council's workforce). The highest paid is £194,474.00 and the median paid is £22,571.00, therefore the ratio is 8.62:1.

Further information on senior pay is also published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at: <http://www.sunderland.gov.uk> and search for Senior Pay, or Website URL: <http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4773>

3. Pay

Pay Policy

Pay policy is determined by the Council, following consideration of recommendations of the Council's HR Committee which is composed of elected members. This ensures that decisions in relation to workforce pay are taken by those who are directly accountable to local people.

Pay Structure

The Council operates a graded salary structure of incremental salary scales with a range of spinal column points (pay points), using the nationally negotiated pay spines as the basis for its local pay structures, together with some locally determined rates.

The large majority of the Council's workforce are covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay spine (spinal column points 3-43), plus some additional local spinal column points (44-52).

The salary figures in this report are gross salary figures before deductions, such as under salary sacrifice schemes, which are made at the discretion of the employee.

Pay Awards

National and Provincial Agreements for the Council's workforce include the negotiation of collective agreements on pay and conditions, which are reviewed and negotiated annually, through agreements of the relevant national bodies such as the National Employers' Organisation for Local Government Services, on behalf of all local authorities in England and Wales, and the signatory Trade Unions. The annual pay awards, if any, take account of a number of issues, including central government guidance, what can be agreed with the relevant trade unions, the general economic situation, the results of consultation, the affordability position of local authorities, the average rate of pay settlements across the economy, the employee relations climate, etc. While the Council as an Employer is consulted as part of the negotiation process, it does not control the level of any national pay award.

Grading of Posts

The grading of posts is approved by either the HR Committee or under delegated powers by the Executive Director of Corporate Services. During 2016 all posts in the council were subject to a grading review following which the grades of all posts are determined using a job evaluation approach called job family modelling.

Appointment to New and Existing Posts

Appointments are made in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures on recruitment and selection. For posts graded on incremental scales, appointments are normally made at the minimum of the salary grade, with employees progressing to the maximum point of the salary range via annual incremental progression where applicable, subject to relevant criteria being met. While provision exists to appoint above the minimum of the grade, this is applied in exceptional circumstances only. The equality impact of the decision is a key issue. In cases where the criteria to appoint above the minimum of the grade is met, records are maintained for use in assessing recruitment and retention trends and for monitoring purposes.

Market Pay Supplements

From time to time, it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capability. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the relevant sector. These are uplifted annually in line with any relevant pay award.

4. Senior Management Pay

Definition of Senior Management

For the purposes of this statement, senior management means ‘chief officers’ as defined within the Localism Act.

Specifically:

- “2 (a) The head of its paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (b) its monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
- (c) a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
- (d) a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
- (e) a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act.”

Key Principles

The Chief Officer pay structure is designed to be easily understood and be transparent to the post holders, key stakeholders and the public.

The structure and level of the pay arrangements is designed to enable the Council to attract, motivate, and retain key senior staff for the authority within a national recruitment context, to lead the Council’s workforce and delivery of the Council’s plans and priorities.

The pay structure is based upon salaries with clear differentials between levels of work/job size, within a range that is affordable now, will remain so for the medium term, and will be subject to review to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose. The remuneration for roles at this level has been set following independent advice from external consultants. In setting the relevant pay levels a range of background factors were taken into consideration for senior pay alongside the significant scope and scale of the Authority in the national context.

For example, the scope and scale of the Chief Executive’s post encompasses responsibilities commensurate with a large city authority, including responsibility for:

- The provision of wide-ranging services to a population of 277,846 (Source: Office for National Statistics 2020 Mid-Year Estimate)
- An overall budget of £705.7m for service commissioning and delivery.

- Undertaking the role of the Head of Paid Service to 4364 employees. (* Figures include maintained schools. This data is accurate at 1st January 2022 but changes on a week by week basis).
- Lead Policy Advisor to the Council's 75 Elected Members

From time to time, it may be necessary to pay supplements to individual employees as part of their employment contract where specific circumstances require this, such as market pay supplements.

Other terms and conditions of employment for this group are as defined within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives, and the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers, of Local Authorities Conditions of Service handbooks, with discretion to set actual pay levels at a local level, but within a national negotiating framework and nationally agreed pay awards. These national provisions are supplemented by the Council's local employment policies. Like all council employees, holders of these posts are eligible to join the nationally defined Local Government Pension Scheme.

The individual elements of the remuneration package are:

a) Chief Executive

The current salary of the post is £194,474.

b) Executive Directors

The current salary of these posts falls within a range called Leadership 3 of £109,883 rising to a maximum of £130,408. The post of Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning salary is £130,408. The following posts are paid an additional market supplement to give a spot salary of £142,289 for the current posts: Executive Director of Neighbourhoods; Executive Director of Corporate Services (section 151 Officer); Executive Director of Children's Services (Chief Executive of Together for Children), and £153,086 for the Executive Director of City Development.

c) The designated Monitoring Officer, which is the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, is paid within a range called Leadership 5 of £85,649 - £96,871.

d) Assistant Directors/ Directors and other officers reporting directly to one of the statutory or non-statutory chief officers listed in (b) and (c) above.

The current salaries of these posts fall within four different ranges: Leadership 4 (£96,871 - £109,883), Leadership 5 (£85,649 - £96,871); Leadership 6 (£73,510 - £85,649); Leadership 7 (£61,751 - £73,510). For certain posts, a market supplement is paid, in line with the principles above.

Election Fees

The designated Returning Officer for the Council, who is currently the Chief Executive, also carries out the role of Acting Returning Officer at UK parliamentary elections and local returning/counting officer at European elections and at other referenda or electoral processes that occur from time to time. These additional roles usually carry an entitlement to payment from central government budgets at levels set by order in relation to each poll. The payment scales for national elections are set out in a Statutory Instrument laid before Parliament in respect of each individual election and are applied to both national and local elections. The Statutory Instruments are published on www.legislation.gov.uk

5. Lowest Paid Employee Information

The definition of the lowest paid employees are those employed in jobs which are paid at Grade 1, spinal column point 3, (£18,887 per annum for a full time 37 hour week post as at 31st March 2022), this being the lowest salary paid to employees, other than apprentices, in line with the Council's decision to comply with the recommended minimum hourly rate of the Living Wage Foundation.

The salaries attributable to apprentices depend on age, with a locally determined higher minimum pay rate on commencement, using national minimum wage rates as set out within the National Minimum Wage legislation. (Given the specific nature of these appointments, the Council does not include apprentices within the definition of lowest paid employees for the purposes of this policy statement).

6. Pay Multiple

One way of measuring pay relationships is to use a pay multiple. The Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the Council's workforce) is 8.62:1.

(The highest pay is £194,474 and the median pay is £22,571).

7. Pension Schemes

There are three pension schemes covering the Council's employees.

The majority of employees are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme as applied by the Council.

Centrally employed Teachers are entitled to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme and receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme.

Public Health employees are members of the NHS Pension Scheme and continue to receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme.

8. Payments on Termination of Employment

The Council's approach to discretionary payments on termination of employment or ceasing to hold office is set out within the Council's policy statement on discretions in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

There are also occasions when settlement agreements may need to be put in place to resolve employment matters and to protect the Council's interests, in line with value for money criteria, and the efficient exercise of the Council's functions. Decisions on such matters are delegated to the Assistant Director of Law and Governance under the Council's Constitution, and are taken, where appropriate, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer.

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petition which was presented to Council:-

(i) Petition to add Arbroath Road and Archer Road to Sunderland Council Priority Gritting Routes

A petition signed by 223 residents was received at the Council meeting on 26 January 2022 from Councillor McDonough. The statement on the petition sheet was as follows:-

“Petition – Priority Gritting Routes

Archer Road and Arbroath Road in Farringdon are both regularly iced over in cold weather and many people struggle when using the road to get to local schools.

Both roads are major access points to Farringdon Primary and the lack of gritting makes it dangerous for parents and children alike.

We are asking Sunderland Council to add these roads to the priority gritting routes, ensuring that gritting trucks treat the roads during periods of cold weather as a priority.”

Following consideration by Council Officers, a response was provided to Councillor McDonough (lead petitioner) as follows:

Thank you for your petition regarding the above. I have received feedback from the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and can advise as follows.

Each year the Council review the gritting routes across the City to determine the main road network routes that must be gritted. Our approach to gritting is that the “Priority 1 routes” are gritted first. These are the main arterial roads which get high levels of traffic and are primary bus routes, for example, Durham Road (A690) and Chester Road. Our “Priority 2” routes are treated after our Priority 1 routes have been attended and these are other main roads and bus routes. Residential roads and paths are unlikely to be treated as our efforts are concentrated on Priority 1 and 2 routes.

Whenever possible we will treat footpaths around shopping centres, bus stops, footbridges or areas identified as locations where a larger number of older people have been identified as living, again these are done in a priority order. Once we are confident that our priority 1 and 2 routes are clear then our gritting teams can be deployed to other areas this is again done in a priority order.

All gritting routes for the 2021/22 winter are now in place and agreed. However, the gritting routes will be reviewed following the winter period to determine the gritting routes for 2022/23. As part of this review process, we will ensure that Arbroath and Archer Road are considered.

(ii) Petition to remove the £25 fee for a replacement wheelie bin

A petition signed by 11 residents was received at the Council meeting on 26 January 2022 from Councillor Crosby. The statement on the petition sheet was as follows:-

“Petition –

We the undersigned petition Sunderland City Council to remove the £25 fee for a replacement wheelie bin where a bin has been stolen, set on fire, where a resident moves into a new property and there is no bin, or when a resident cannot afford the fee.”

Following consideration by Council Officers, a response was provided to Cllr Crosby (lead petitioner) as follows:

Thank you for your recent petition regarding the above. I have now received feedback from the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and can advise as follows.

In 2017 the policy on charging for replacement bins was introduced. This policy has been delivered in line with agreements since this time and a £25 charge applied. Bins are designed to last for many years but unfortunately there are some people that do suffer unacceptable attacks and crimes in the theft and burning out of bins. This form of anti-social behaviour, I am sure you will agree, must be addressed and hope that residents can work collaboratively in tackling these issues.

Like all Policies and Practices, it is necessary to review their appropriateness on a regular basis. Therefore, we have been asked to undertake a review of the bin replacement charging arrangements and consider the current issues and concerns raised by residents and local Ward Councillors.

The work in reviewing the Bin Replacement Policy is well advanced. At the Budget Council meeting on 2 March 2022, it was reported that the current charging policy for replacement bins will be revised, with a new policy for 2022/2023 to be considered by Cabinet at its March meeting. The cost of the revised policy is forecast to be £0.206 million annually, although given the inherent uncertainty in assessing demand levels this will be monitored closely during the first 6 months of its adoption. It will initially be met from the Street Scene and Open Spaces reserve, with the ongoing cost of the scheme considered in the financial planning for 2023/2024 later this calendar year.

(iii) Petition to make free domestic rodent control permanent and to put in place a long-term plan to tackle rat infestations in public places and local parks.

A petition signed by 71 residents was received at the Council meeting on 17 November 2021 from Councillor Edgeworth. The statement on the petition sheet was as follows:-

“Petition – We the undersigned call on Sunderland City Council to make free domestic rodent control permanent and to put in place a long-term plan to tackle rat infestations in public places and local parks.”

Following consideration by Council Officers, a response was provided to Councillor Edgeworth as follows:

The Council introduced a free pest control service on 1 October 2021 to support residents who may have encountered difficulties over the pandemic. This service is currently funded for 12 months from 1 October 2021 and any continuance of the service would be based on an assessment of the prevailing issues at the time and the Council’s financial priorities.

Reports

COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2022

Update on Special Urgency Decisions

Report of the Leader

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken as a matter of special urgency. The relevant provisions are now contained in Regulations 11 and 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

These are the special urgency provisions under which key decisions may be taken by the executive, although not contained in the 28 day Notice of Key decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or private), where compliance with Regulation 10 (the general exception) was also impracticable.

There have been no such instances since the last report.

Recommendation

That the Council notes the content of this report.

COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2022

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of changes required to the allocation of Committee seats between political groups as a result of the Redhill by-election. Approval is sought to a number of proposed changes to various committees together with some changes required to outside bodies that are unrelated to the outcome of the by-election.
- 1.2 The full list of appointments to committees and outside bodies will be published on the Council's website in the Yearbook at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm55/PublicDocuments.aspx> following the meeting.

2.0 Changes to Appointments on Committees

- 2.1 A review of the political balance of the Council to ensure places on Committees are allocated in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements has been undertaken, following the recently held by-election in the Redhill ward, at which Councillor Usher was elected. Councillor Usher has joined the Labour group on the Council and members are advised that some changes to the allocation of seats between the political groups are required as a result.
- 2.2 Council is requested to note Councillor Usher's appointment to the North Sunderland Area Committee as a Redhill Ward member.
- 2.3 As a result of the by-election the changes are as follows:-
- **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** – the seat held by the Wearside Independent member (Councillor Bewick) is now allocated to the Majority Group.
 - **Homelessness Appeals Panel** – the seat held by the former member, Councillor Jenkins of the Wearside Independents Group, is allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group.
 - **Appeals Panel** - the seat held by the former member, Councillor Jenkins of the Wearside Independents Group, is allocated to the Majority Group.

3.0 Port Board – Co-Opted Members

- 3.1 The Council is requested to consider appointments to the two vacancies for co-opted members on the Port Board.
- 3.2 The Port Board was originally established in 2010 as a non-executive committee of Full Council in accordance with the Department for Transport's ("DfT") then guidance for municipal ports contained in "*Opportunities for Ports in Local Authority Ownership*" (2006). The current Port Board structure is based on the harbour management committee model that was recommended by the DfT at that time as the best practice governance model for in-house local authority owned ports.
- 3.3 The DfT has subsequently issued updated guidance in relation to port governance arrangements which applies to all statutory harbour authorities ("SHAs"). These include the Council and other municipal ports, plus trust ports and certain private ports (*Ports Good Governance Guidance 2018*). This replaces the previous 2006 guidance. Whilst this guidance is not legally binding, it is recommended good practice and all SHAs are expected to carefully consider it and implement its principles (if these are not already in place), unless this is considered impractical or inappropriate based on local circumstances. Where a SHA decides not to comply with the 2018 Guidance, it is stated that the relevant SHA should clearly state the reasons why publicly.
- 3.4 The DfT's 2018 Guidance reaffirms that the existing harbour management committee model, namely a specific Council committee comprising a majority of elected members plus external appointees with suitable and valuable skills and experience (based on the requirements of the relevant port), continues to be the recommended model as to how good practice corporate governance principles can be applied to local authority ports.
- 3.5 There are currently two external vacancies on the Port Board following the departure at the end of 2019 of the two previous co-opted members who had served on the Port Board for almost ten years.
- 3.6 An external recruitment exercise, supported by specialist recruitment consultant, has been undertaken to seek two new co-opted member appointees based on an up-to-date role profile. As a result of this process, it is recommended that the following two candidates are appointed to the Port Board for a three-year term.
- 3.7 Richard McEvoy is currently Chief Risk Officer of Tier One Capital, a Non-Executive Director and Trustee of both Age UK Northumberland and The Concern Group, a Coach and Mentor of The Experience Bank and a member of the Northumbria University Advisory Board, with considerable corporate finance sector experience.

- 3.8 Leonard Taylor is a senior mechanical engineering professional and is currently a Sector Specialist for offshore wind and renewables for the Northern Powerhouse/Department for Trade and also Managing Director of Lenergy Consulting, with proven Chief Executive Officer experience in the energy, chemical storage and offshore wind industries.

4.0 Additions and Changes to Outside Bodies

Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group

- 4.1 The Council was recently invited to nominate an elected member representative and an officer representative to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group which is open to all members of the LGA. The officer representative was appointed at the September 2021 Council meeting. It is now requested that a Member representative be appointed.
- 4.2 The LGA Coastal SIG exists to champion and represent the collective interests of the coastal communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. It works in partnership with other organisations with complementary aims and brings pressure on the Government to secure local government's full involvement at all levels of policy formulation concerning the coast.
- 4.3 The LGA Coastal SIG meets 4 times per year. All nominated Member and officer representatives are invited to attend. These meetings are attended by representatives from relevant government departments (e.g. Defra, MHCLG) and provide a direct line to government. The SIG also attracts a varied programme of external speakers, including an Executive Director of the Environment Agency and the Chief Officer of the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.
- 4.4 Council is therefore requested to appoint an elected member representative.

Positions as Trustees on the Samuel Dobson and Victoria House Trusts

- 4.5 A vacancy for a Councillor representative exists on both the Samuel Dobson Trust and the Victoria House Trust previously held by former Councillor Turner.

Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Programming and Investment Group

- 4.6 Members will recall that at the Annual Council meeting in May 2021, Councillor Peacock, with Councillor Edgeworth as the substitute, were appointed as representatives on the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- 4.7 The Council was recently invited to nominate a main member from its strategic group in order that they are able to provide updates to the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Programming and Investment Group and in addition, to appoint a substitute in the event the main member is not able to attend.
- 4.8 Accordingly, the Council is therefore requested to nominate a member and a substitute as representatives to the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Programming and Investment Group.

Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee

- 4.9 Newcastle International Airport's Consultative Committee aims to:-
- Provide a forum for dialogue between the airport, its users and neighbours
 - Convey greater understanding to the community about airport operations
 - Offer the airport management company insights into local, social, economic and environmental impacts of those operations and future proposals.
- 4.10 The aim of the Committee is to:
- Act as a 'critical friend' to the airport, monitoring change and challenging performance where necessary
 - Improve the passenger experience through its role in protecting and enhancing facilities
 - Promote the exchange of information and ideas, help monitor trends and increase effectiveness by drawing on local knowledge.
- 4.11 The Committee is made up of representatives of:
- Local residents' groups and local parish councillors
 - Borough, city and county councillors
 - Members of other organisations who seek to represent passengers and other people who use the airport.
- 4.12 The Committee normally meets on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December at the airport.
- 4.13 The Council is requested to nominate an elected member representative to serve on the Consultative Committee.

Recommendations

The Council is accordingly invited to:-

- (i) appoint Councillor Usher to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee in place of Councillor Bewick;
- (ii) appoint a Liberal Democrat Group Member to the seat on the Homelessness Appeals Panel held by the former member, Councillor Jenkins;
- (iii) appoint Councillor Usher to the seat on the Appeals Panel held by the former member, Councillor Jenkins;
- (iv) approve the appointment of Richard McEvoy and Leonard Taylor to the Port of Sunderland Port Board, for a three year term;
- (v) appoint Councillor Scott to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group;
- (vi) appoint Councillor Price to the Samuel Dobson Trust;
- (vii) appoint Councillor Blackburn to the Victoria House Trust;
- (viii) appoint Councillor Scott as the representative with Councillor Usher as substitute representatives on the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Coastal Committee Programming and Investment Group; and
- (ix) appoint Councillor Stewart as the Council's representative on the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee.

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions:-

1. Armed Forces Act 2021

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. Tye (Proposer)
Councillor G. Miller (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Tye	Councillor K. Johnston	Councillor L. Williams
Councillor G. Miller	Councillor P. Walker	Councillor J. Usher
Councillor M. Butler	Councillor J. Heron	Councillor C. Rowntree
Councillor S. Foster	Councillor P. Smith	Councillor K. Chequer
Councillor P. Stewart	Councillor F. Miller	Councillor L. Farthing

2. Leader of the Council

This Council expresses no confidence in the Leader of the Council and, in accordance with the Local Government Act (2000), requires his removal from that post.

Councillor P. Donaghy (Proposer)
Councillor A. Mullen (Seconder)

Signed by:-

Councillor P. Donaghy	Councillor M. Hartnack
Councillor L. Reed	Councillor D. McDonough
Councillor J. McKeith	Councillor C. Burnicle
Councillor R. Dunn	Councillor A. Mullen

