

## Sunderland City Council

At an Extraordinary meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.10pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor A Smith) in the Chair

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

### Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Greenfield and Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Burnicle, Mann, McDonough, McKeith, Mordey, Samuels and D. Trueman.

### Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

## Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries

The Chief Executive reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) contacted the Council in July 2022 to indicate that it intended to carry out a review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements.

At its meeting in November 2022, Council considered the process to be adopted in relation to completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council size and agreed to establish a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group of Members (the Working Group), to assist with formulation of the submission document. The Council's submission was required to be delivered to the Commission by 28th February 2023 and it was originally proposed that a draft document would be presented to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for 25th January 2023, being the last scheduled meeting prior to the submission deadline. The process of obtaining and collating relevant information had however proved to be resource intensive and it became apparent that additional time was required in order to prepare a properly considered and reasoned document. At the Council Meeting in January 2023 it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting be convened on 22 February 2023 with regard to the completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council Size.

Accordingly, it was recommended to Council that it:-

- i) noted the work that has been undertaken by the Boundary Review Working Group on developing the draft Council Size proposal document;
- ii) approved the Council Size proposal document for submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023; and
- iii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders, to make any minor typographical or stylistic amendments to the proposal document prior to submission.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Rowntree, moved that the report be approved and adopted.

Upon being put to the vote with 41 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Blackburn	Greener	Rowntree	Tye
	Burrell	Guy	Scanlan	Usher
	Butler	Heron	Scott	Walker, M.
	Chequer	Herron	Smith, A.	Walker, P.
	Chisnall	Johnston, K.	Smith, P.	Warne
	Dodds	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D.	Watson
	Donaghy	Laws	Snowdon, D.E.	Williams
	Farthing	Mason-Gage	Speding	Wilson
	Fletcher	Miller, F.	Stewart	
	Foster	Miller, G.	Thornton	
	Gibson, Peter	Price	Trueman, H.	

27 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Ali	Doyle	Hodson	Potts
	Ayre	Dunn	Johnston, S.	Reed
	Bewick	Edgeworth	Morrissey	Smith, G
	Bond	Fagan	Mullen	Vera
	Crosby	Gibson, Paul	Nicholson	Wood, A.
	Curtis	Hartnack	O'Brien	Wood, P.
	Dixon, M.	Haswell	Peacock	

And no Members abstaining, it was:-

**40. RESOLVED** that the report of the Chief Executive be approved and adopted.

### **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report on a recalculation of the political balance on committees undertaken following the resignation of Councillor Greener from the Conservative Group, and which sought approval for changes in membership to a number of committees to ensure places were allocated in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

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

**41. RESOLVED** that approval be given to the:-

- (i) appointment of Councillor Greener on the Appeals Panel in place of Councillor S. Johnston; and
- (ii) appointment of Councillor Bewick on the Corporate Parenting Board in place of Councillor McKeith and the appointment of Councillor Greener as a substitute Member to the Board in place of Councillor Hartnack.

**(Signed) A. SMITH,**  
**Mayor.**

