

CITY HALL
SUNDERLAND
13 March 2026

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 25 MARCH 2026** at **4.00pm** 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 meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2026 and the extraordinary meeting held on 11 March 2026 (copies attached).** 1
4. **Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any).** -
5. **Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e).** -
6. **Leader's Update** -
7. **Reception of Petitions.** -
8. **Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 11.** -

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| 9. | Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 12. | - |
| 10. | Report of the Cabinet (copy attached). | 23 |
| 11. | Report of the Human Resources Committee (copy attached). | 39 |
| 12. | Report of the Audit and Governance Committee (copy attached). | 53 |
| 13. | To consider the following reports: - | |
| | (i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached). | 63 |
| | (ii) Appointment of Independent Persons and Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached). | 65 |
| 14. | To consider the attached Motions (copy attached). | 67 |



PATRICK MELIA OBE, 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://youtube.com/live/Rb4d2fM4WAQ?feature=share>

Minutes

(i)

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Haque) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Thornton)

Councillors	Blackburn	Elms	Johnston	Smith, G
	Bond	Fagan	Jones	Snowdon, D
	Burnicle	Feeley	Laverick	Snowdon, D E
	Burrell	Fletcher	Laws	Speding
	Chequer	Foster	Leonard	Stewart
	Chisnall	Gibson	McDonough	Tobin
	Clinton	Glancy	Mordey	Trueman, H
	Crosby	Guy	Mullen	Tye
	Curtis	Hartnack	O'Brien	Usher
	Dagg	Haswell	Potts	Vera
	Dixon	Heron	Price	Walker, P
	Dodds	Hodson	Reed	Walton
	Donkin	Hunter	Smith, A	Williams
	Edgeworth			

Also Present: -

Honorary Aldermen Greenfield and Wood

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ayre, Butler, Chapman, Graham-King, Herron, Mason-Gage, McKeith, McKinley, F Miller, G Miller, Newey, Samuels, Scanlan, M Walker, Watson, Wilson and Wood together with Honorary Alderwomen Farthing and Honorary Aldermen Forbes and Tate.

Minutes

29. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 January 2026 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Cllr Chequer	Member of Unison
Cllr Chisnall	Member of Unison
Cllr Dagg	Member of Trade Unions UCU and NEU and Vice Chair of the Sunderland Trades Union Council
Cllr Dodds	Member of Unite
Cllr Feeley	Member of Unison and Council Tax payer in Sunderland
Cllr Guy	Member of Unite
Cllr Johnston	Member of Unite
Cllr Jones	Member of Unison
Cllr Laverick	Member of Unite
Cllr Laws	Member of Unite and Unison
Cllr Leonard	Member of Unison
Cllr Mordey	Member of GMB and Unison
Cllr O'Brien	Employee of a charity in receipt of UKSPF funding
Cllr D Snowdon	Council Tax payer in Sunderland
Cllr D E Snowdon	Council Tax payer in Sunderland
Cllr Speding	Member of GMB, Member of the Football Association, Football Foundation and National Game Board, member of Co-operative Party
Cllr Stewart	Member of Unison
Cllr Thornton	Member of Unison
Cllr Tobin	Member of Unite and Unison
Cllr H Trueman	Member of CWU Union
Cllr P Walker	Member of Unison and Gentoo Sub-Branch Secretary

Announcements

There were no announcements on this occasion.

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 6 November 2025, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 report which was referred from the October Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the report including the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Budget Planning Framework.

The Committee also acknowledged the work undertaken around identifying spending pressures, addressing the funding gap and updating the Capital Strategy. The Committee remained committed to budget monitoring through further updates to the Committee and had no further comments to make at the time.

- On 15 January 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report including the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Budget Planning Framework and acknowledged the spending pressures and budget saving proposals.

- On 12 February 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered Budget and Service Reports on Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2025/2026, Capital Programme 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2026/2027, including Prudential Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 and Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2026/2027 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 reports which were referred from the 12 February Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted and acknowledged the information in the various reports as was presented.

The Committee also acknowledged the financial pressures on the Council and its services as detailed throughout the report and noted the recommended Council Tax increase for 2026/27, although recognised that this still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the outcome of the budget consultation which was undertaken.

Finally, the Committee acknowledged the work and diligence of Officers and Members in preparing the budgetary information presented to the committee and to other key stakeholders and had no further comments to make.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee: -

- On 15 January 2026, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Capital Programme Planning 2026/2027 – 2029/2030 and Capital Strategy report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Committee noted the Capital Programme Planning report including the additional capital project proposals and was satisfied with the report and had no further comments 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 13 February 2026, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2026/2027.

The Committee noted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2026/2027 and the Prudential Treasury Management Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2029/2030.

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 recognised that the Council continued to achieve a very positive treasury management performance and commended the work of officers in achieving these outcomes.

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 following precept figures had been confirmed as those set out in the report to Cabinet on 12 February 2026:

- The precept figures of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria (PCCN) would mean an increase of £18.50 at a Band D in the precept level for 2026/2027; and
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council would mean an increase of 2% in the precept level for 2026/2027.
- The precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority would mean an increase of £5 at a Band D in the precept level for 2026/2027.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2026/2027 reflected the above notified 2026/2027 precept levels in respect of the Precepting Authorities.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 on the agenda entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2026/2027 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030”, Appendix F had not been printed with this item, but the recommendation, which included all of the substantive content of the report, was set out in full at item 3 overleaf.

1. Capital Programme 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2026/2027, including Prudential Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2029/2030

That they had considered the attached report of the Director of Finance on:

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2026/2027;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2026/2027 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2029/2030; and
- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2026/2027.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2026/2027;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2026/2027 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2029/2030; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2026/2027.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2026/2027 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030

That they had considered the report of the Director of Finance which was at the following link [[Cabinet 12 February 2026](#)] on:

- (a) the overall revenue budget position for 2026/2027;
- (b) the projected reserves position as at 31st March 2026 and 31st March 2027 and advise on their sufficiency;
- (c) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2026/2027;

- (d) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2026/2027 to 2029/2030, and associated Council Efficiency strategy;
- (e) any views received from residents, the local Business Sector, Trade Unions, Schools Forum, Change Council and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on the proposed budget; and
- (f) the updated City Plan 2026-2035 including the indicative timeline.

The report of the Director of Finance to Council set out the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2026/2027 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 as recommended by Cabinet and updated to reflect the outcome of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement which was published on 9 February 2026. The Final Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed an increase in Core Spending Power for the Council of 6.6% based on the Government's assumption of a 4.99% increase in council tax.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2026/2027 set out at Appendix J;
- (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030 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; and
- (iii) the adoption of the updated City Plan 2026-2035 including the indicative timeline.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2026/2027

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2026/2027 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2026/2027, and advising that the Council Tax was calculated using the tax bases for the areas of the City Council and Hetton Town Council as approved by Council on 28 January 2026, 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 2026/2027 for its own purposes is £144,939,634 (excluding Parish precepts) and which represents a 2.5% increase in core council tax for 2026/2027 and a 2% increase in the ringfenced social care precept.

- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 28 January 2026 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2026/2027 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
- a) 77,227 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) 4,454 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 2026/2027 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
- a) £907,753,841 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) £762,745,838 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - c) £145,008,003 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) £1,877.6853 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) £68,369 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 of the Act.
 - f) £1,876.8000 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) £1,892.1500 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 HettonTown Council.

- h) Charges relating to the Council

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,261.43	1,251.20
B	1,471.67	1,459.73
C	1,681.91	1,668.27
D	1,892.15	1,876.80
E	2,312.63	2,293.87
F	2,733.11	2,710.93
G	3,153.58	3,128.00
H	3,784.30	3,753.60

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 2026/2027, 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:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	142.89	70.07
B	166.71	81.75
C	190.52	93.43
D	214.34	105.11
E	261.97	128.47
F	309.60	151.83
G	357.23	175.18
H	428.68	210.22

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii) (h) and (iv) above and the estimated precepts 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 2026/2027 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,474.39	1,464.16
B	1,720.13	1,708.19
C	1,965.86	1,952.22
D	2,211.60	2,196.25
E	2,703.07	2,684.31
F	3,194.54	3,172.36
G	3,685.99	3,660.41
H	4,423.20	4,392.50

- (vi) To determine that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/2027 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed council tax increase for 2026/2027 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 Mordey, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Chequer, moved the report of the Cabinet.

The following Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrat Group in Opposition was moved by Councillor Edgeworth and seconded by Councillor Fagan.

Revenue Budget

Revenue (Savings)	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3.	(69,221)
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees (and three Neighbourhood Boards) giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs.	(33,254)
Reduction and scrapping of councillor allowances and expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the 2025/26 increase in basic allowance and then 5% reduction in basic allowance. • 20% reduction in Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member SRAs. • 20% reduction in opposition party leader(s) SRAs. • Reduce SRA for Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to same as chairs of thematic scrutiny committees. • 20% reduction in SRAs for Chairs of Thematic Scrutiny Committees, Area Committees, Planning and Highways Committee and Licensing and Regulatory Committee. • Abolition of all Vice Chair SRAs. • 20% reduction in SRAs for Audit and Governance Committee Chair and Independent members. • Abolish positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and associated SRAs and replace with unpaid elected Chairperson. • Change travel allowances policy so expense can only be claimed when travelling outside the North East region. • Abolish all provision for subsistence claims. • Abolish all provision for reimbursement of broadband and telephone costs. 	(194,562)
Remove the Corporate Communications budget, including retainers with Creo Communications and Different Narrative.	(734,314)
Scrap residents survey and resident newsletter.	(137,070)
Remove budget for carbon reduction.	(382,451)
Introduce a full paperless system for meeting agendas and documents, unless there is an accessibility issue which requires hard copy documents as a reasonable adjustment.	(18,000)
End use of council vehicles for travel for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, cabinet members and councillors.	(33,735)
Scrap Mayors hospitality Budget including provision of alcohol cellar and providing free food to guests.	(3,835)

Scrap foreign travel Budget and prohibit internal flights for Council staff and elected members when travelling within the United Kingdom (except for business travel to and from the North of Ireland).	(29,519)
End free parking for councillors at St Mary's car park.	(8,500)
Stop all funding and sponsorship for award ceremonies both hosted and attended by the Council (NEAA Annual Awards, North East Contact Centre Awards, Business Excellence Awards, Gala Awards, Sunderland Council STAR Awards).	(30,750)
Cancel subscriptions for the following membership organisations the Council is part of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative Councils Innovation Network • Industrial Communities Alliance • Key Cities • Local Government Information Unit • New Local Government Network • Healthy Cities Network 	(59,681)
Offer the top floor of City Hall out for lease by an external organisation at market rates including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all majority group offices (reallocate the spare group room (opposition room #3) to the majority party). • Leader's office • Deputy Leader's office • Cabinet offices • Mayor's office 	0
Increase Fixed Penalty Charge for fly-tipping to £1000.	(20,650)
Increase Household Waste Duty of Care breaches Fixed Penalty Notice to £500 on 2 nd or 3 rd breach.	(3,100)
Scrap Member Support budget.	(59,659)
Scrap Japan / American funding.	(33,481)
Total Revenue (Savings)	(1,851,782)

Revenue (Spending)	£
Reduce Labour's Council Tax increase by 0.868%.	1,203,854
Employ additional environmental services staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Grade 6 FTE Environmental Enforcement Officer. 1 x Grade 6 FTE Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. 	93,042
Costs for 1 x Grade 4 FTE Dog Warden officer.	39,578

Reverse planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2026/27.	10,669
Create large household waste bin fund comprising 140 x 360 litre household waste bins for households that require them.	5,733
Reverse the 2026/27 increase in brown bin tax.	29,567
Re-instate 'Free after 3' parking in all city centre car parks it previously applied to.	130,000
Introduce 'Free after 3' parking in the Riverside Multi-Story Parking.	15,000
Employ 1 x FTE traffic warden allocated specifically to the following areas: Sea Road, Fulwell Road, Southwick Village Green, Hylton Road, Durham Road, Chester Road and surrounding streets.	39,493
Employ 1 x FTE park warden allocated to the following areas: Doxford Park, Margaret Thompson Park, Barnes Park Extension.	39,578
Hire 2 new cleansing employees and 1 van on a 5/7 rota to provide a weekend fly-tipping/litter/overflowing bin responsive service to improve cleansing across the city.	80,168
Hire a graffiti cleansing crew and source appropriate equipment to solely operate outside of the city centre, complementing the city centre crew and ensure equipped to deal with the most stubborn graffiti.	138,668
Grit bin fund providing 5 x 160 litre grit bins for ward councillors to allocate in the following wards: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	14,000
Litter bin fund providing 5 x 120 litre bins for ward councillors to allocate in the following wards: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	12,432
Total Revenue (Spending)	1,851,782

Capital Budget

Capital (Savings)	£
Reallocate Washington F Pit Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvements.	(3,863,000)
Sale of the Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's chain; ceremonial mace; ceremonial robes, Chief Executive's wig; and OGR 1 numberplate.	(410,100)
Total Capital (Savings)	(4,273,100)

Capital (Spending)	£
Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford / Pennywell Area.	10,000
Installation of a permanent enforcement camera to prevent (and issue fines for) illegal parking on Ebdon Lane, Fulwell.	30,000
Install pelican crossing at Front Road/Fordfield Road junction.	110,000
Install pelican crossing at Springwell Road near Springwell Medical Centre.	220,000
Install 2 chicanes on Westmoor Road to slow traffic.	50,000
Install 2 chicanes on Midmoor Road to slow traffic.	50,000
Repaint railings and lamp-posts on St Lukes Terrace.	20,000
Bus shelters fund providing 5 new bus shelters for ward councillors in the following wards to allocate: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	200,000
Upgrade Chester/Springwell/Holborn Roads roundabout to traffic-light controlled junction.	1,000,000
Amend layout of junctions of Toronto Road/Telford Road, Thanet Road/Telford Road and Truro Road/Thorndale Road in Thorney Close.	75,000
Install fencing and barriers at entrances of Stirling Close into Barnes Park Extension.	1,000
Install fencing along boundary with Hastings Hill Farm from North Farm Avenue, along Totnes Close, Tilbury Road and down to Summerhill.	20,000
Installation of bollards on pavement outside Hastings Hill shops.	15,000
Vehicle Activated Sign fund providing 3 VASs for ward councillors in the following wards to allocate: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	192,000
Installation of double yellow line waiting restrictions at junction of Sevenoaks Drive and Chester Road (A183).	8,000
Street lighting improvement fund providing funding for 10 additional lighting columns for ward councillors in the following wards to allocate in order to make strategic improvements: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	160,000
Dropped kerbs fund providing funding for 10 sets of dropped kerbs for ward councillors in the following wards to allocate: (i) Barnes & Thornhill; (ii) Deptford & Hendon; (iii) Doxford Park; (iv) Fulwell; (v) Grindon & Thorney Close; (vi) Pallion & Ford; (vii) Pennywell & South Hylton; (viii) Roker.	800,000

Installation of bollards on pavement outside shops on Chester Road (between Sorley Street and Hylton Street, and between Co-operative Terrace and Stewart Street) to prevent pavement parking.	50,000
Install bollards and railings to go around junction of Midmoor Road and St Luke's Terrace to prevent parking obstructing flow of traffic.	10,000
Additional funding to road and pavement repairs and resurfacing.	1,252,100
Total Capital (Spending)	4,273,100

The Liberal Democrat Group's amendments to the Revenue and Capital Budget were then put to the vote with 16 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Bond	Edgeworth	Haswell	Potts
	Crosby	Fagan	Hodson	Reed
	Dixon	Gibson	Mullen	Vera
	Donkin	Hartnack	O'Brien	Walton

38 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor Haque)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Thornton)

Councillors	Blackburn	Feeley	Laverick	Snowdon, D E
	Burrell	Fletcher	Laws	Speding
	Chequer	Foster	Leonard	Stewart
	Chisnall	Glancy	McDonough	Tobin
	Clinton	Guy	Mordey	Trueman, H
	Curtis	Heron	Price	Tye
	Dagg	Hunter	Smith, A	Usher
	Dodds	Johnston	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Elms	Jones	Snowdon, D	Williams

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

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

Revenue Savings

Reduce the Neighbourhood Fund budget allocation to Area Committees	£1,000,000
Reduction in Corporate Affairs and Comms budget (to include total reduction in spending on Creo Comms and social media influencers)	£868,710

Reduction in the Events budget	£ 695,440
Reduction in the Low Carbon budget	£382,451
Cuts to councillors' allowances	£173,214
Paperless model for agendas and magazines	£88,000
Reduction in Member Support budget	£50,000
Reduction in TU facility time	£150,000
End chauffeur-driven cars for the Mayor and Labour cabinet	£33,735
Abolish councillors' expenses budget	£35,000
Reduce the Business and Investment budget, including the total budget for Japan/America travel	£250,000
Reduction in the Community and Belonging budget	£1,000,000
Redirect the Active Sunderland budget to pay for play park upgrades	£340,032
Total	£5,066,582

Revenue Spending

Reduce Labour's Council Tax increase by 2.64%	£3,665,481
Introduce free parking in the city centre (based on a 'Free After 3' scheme)	£130,000
Introduce free parking on the Roker and Seaburn sea fronts (based on a 'Free After 3' scheme)	£140,000
Make CPMS parking permits free to all residents	£122,200
Implement 5 new School Streets schemes	£250,000
Install 10 new shroud bins in wards with high volumes of litter, to include Grangetown and Barnes and Thornhill	£4,670
Introduce 5 new Civil Enforcement Officers (Traffic Wardens), including one dedicated solely to Chester Road area	£197,465
Introduce 3 Park and Cemetery Wardens	£118,734
Line Queen Alexandra Road, Chester Road, Dame Dorothy Street (from Church Street North) and Harbour View with the Union flag	£98,000
Revenue transfer to capital to support play park upgrades	£340,032
Total	£5,066,582

Capital Savings

Delete the remaining F-Pit budget	£3,863,000
Reduce the allocation for Strategic Acquisitions	£200,000
Transfer from revenue	£340,032
Cancel the building decarbonisation programme	£775,000
Cancel the City Gateway Screens programme	£154,000
Total	£5,332,032

Capital Spending

Increase spending on road resurfacing and pavement and pothole repairs (to include £1m to be directed by Area Committees)	£3,417,032
Replace the Broadway roundabout with traffic lights	£1,000,000
Introduce safe crossing points on Silksworth Lane	£300,000
Provision of a capital grant to a third-sector organisation (e.g. Save the National Glass Centre) to support the purchase of the centre and the surrounding land	£200,000
Build a new play park in Middle Herrington	£415,000
Total	£5,332,032

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Conservative Group in Opposition was put to the vote with 16 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Bond	Edgeworth	Haswell	O'Brien
	Crosby	Fagan	Hodson	Potts
	Dixon	Gibson	McDonough	Reed
	Donkin	Hartnack	Mullen	Walton

37 Members voting against: -

The Mayor (Councillor Haque)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Thornton)

Councillors	Blackburn	Feeley	Laverick	Speding
	Burrell	Fletcher	Laws	Stewart
	Chequer	Foster	Leonard	Tobin
	Chisnall	Glancy	Mordey	Trueman, H
	Clinton	Guy	Price	Tye

Curtis	Heron	Smith, A	Usher
Dagg	Hunter	Smith, G	Walker, P
Dodds	Johnston	Snowdon, D	Williams
Elms	Jones	Snowdon, D E	

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 37 Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor Haque)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Thornton)

Councillors	Blackburn	Feeley	Laverick	Speding
	Burrell	Fletcher	Laws	Stewart
	Chequer	Foster	Leonard	Tobin
	Chisnall	Glancy	Mordey	Trueman, H
	Clinton	Guy	Price	Tye
	Curtis	Heron	Smith, A	Usher
	Dagg	Hunter	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Dodds	Johnston	Snowdon, D	Williams
	Elms	Jones	Snowdon, D E	

16 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Bond	Edgeworth	Haswell	O'Brien
	Crosby	Fagan	Hodson	Potts
	Dixon	Gibson	McDonough	Reed
	Donkin	Hartnack	Mullen	Walton

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly, it was: -

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

(Signed) E HAQUE
Mayor

Sunderland City Council

At an Extraordinary meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026 at 6.00pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Haque) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Thornton)

Councillors	Burrell	Feeley	Johnston	Snowdon, D
	Butler	Fletcher	Jones	Snowdon, D E
	Chapman	Foster	Leonard	Speding
	Chequer	Glancy	Mordey	Stewart
	Chisnall	Guy	Mullen	Tobin
	Dagg	Hartnack	Scanlan	Trueman
	Dixon	Heron	Smith, A	Usher
	Dodds	Hunter	Smith, G	Williams
	Elms			

Also Present:

Honorary Aldermen Greenfield and Wood

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Bond, Clinton, Crosby, Donkin, Edgeworth, Fagan, Gibson, Graham-King, Haswell, Hodson, Laverick, Laws, McKinley, F Miller, G Miller, O'Brien, Potts, Samuels, Tye, P Walker, Walton, Wilson and Wood together with Honorary Alderwoman Farthing and Aldermen Forbes and Tate.

Honorary Freedom of the City – Sister Mary Scholastica and Paul Callaghan

The Chief Executive submitted a report which invited the Council to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Sister Mary Scholastica and Paul Callaghan.

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to all present at the meeting and Canon Clare MacLaren offered prayers.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council and duly seconded by Councillor Scanlan that the Council formally confer the title of Honorary Freeman of the City upon Sister Mary Scholastica.

The Leader of Council, Councillor Scanlan, Alderman Wood, Councillor Jones, Councillor Hartnack and Councillor Trueman spoke to the motion and on being put to the meeting it was unanimously agreed and it was: -

31. RESOLVED that that in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do admit Sister Mary Scholastica to be an Honorary Freeman of the City, in recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she sets in serving the community and seafarers at the Port of Sunderland and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people in the city.

Sister Mary Scholastica was invited to be presented with a presentational copy of the Council's resolution by the Mayor and to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City. Ed Hanson responded with an acceptance speech on behalf of Sister Mary.

It was then moved by the Leader of the Council and duly seconded by the Deputy Leader that the Council formally confer the title of Honorary Freeman of the City upon Paul Callaghan.

The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Dixon, Councillor Jones and Councillor Trueman spoke to the motion and on it being put to the meeting it was unanimously agreed and it was: -

32. RESOLVED that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do admit Paul Callaghan to be an Honorary Freeman of the City, in recognition of the example of commitment and achievement he sets in contributing to business, education and culture, as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people in the city.

Mr Callaghan was invited to be presented with a presentational copy of the Council's resolution by the Mayor and to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City. He responded with an acceptance speech.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) E HAQUE
Mayor

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows: -

1. Area Committee Boundary Review

That at its meeting held on 12 February 2026, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs (copy attached) seeking approval for revisions to Area Committee boundaries, encompassing the changes to ward boundaries which will be enacted under the Sunderland (Electoral Changes) Order 2025 from May 2026 and for the review and refresh of the Terms of Reference associated with Area Committees as set out in Article 10 of the Constitution.

Cabinet recommends that the Council: -

- (i) approve the revisions to three of the five existing Area Committee boundaries and revise ward names within all five boundaries set out in the report and Appendix 1, to take effect from 7 May 2026; and
- (ii) authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend Article 10 of the Constitution to reflect these changes and make such other consequential amendments to the Constitution as are necessary.

CABINET MEETING – 12 February 2026
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Area Committee Boundary Review

Author(s):

Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for revisions to Area Committee boundaries, encompassing the changes to ward boundaries that will be enacted under the Sunderland (Electoral Changes) Order 2025 (the 2025 Order) from May 2026 and for the review and refresh of the Terms of Reference associated with Area Committees, set out in Article 10 of the Constitution.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Recommend Council to:
 - i. approve the revisions to 3 of the 5 existing Area Committee boundaries and revise ward names within all 5 boundaries as set out in the Report and Appendix 1, to take effect from 7th May 2026, and
 - ii. authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend Article 10 of the Constitution to reflect these changes and to make such other consequential amendments to the Constitution as are necessary.
2. Agree to work with Elected Members and other partners to review the Terms of Reference for Area Committees set out in Article 10 of the Constitution and bring forward refreshed proposals to Council for approval; and
3. Approve and endorse the revised funding allocations for each of the Area Committees as set out in paragraph 3.6 and 3.7.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

1. The changes to ward boundaries and ward names introduced as a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission review and subsequent enactment of the 2025 Order impacts on the provisions for Area Committees set out in Article 10 of the Council's Constitution. Amending Article 10 as proposed in the report will ensure that Area Committee boundaries and ward names are consistent with the relevant provisions of the 2025 Order, when they come into effect.

2. Feedback from resident engagement and the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge recommendations identified the potential for Area Committees to add value to the Council's wider approach to engagement with residents and communities and it is considered that this can best be developed in consultation with elected members and partners.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

1. Not to amend the provisions regarding Area Committees as set out in Article 10 of the Constitution.

This is not recommended as if Article 10 remains unchanged, its provisions will not be consistent with the relevant provisions of the 2025 Order when they come into effect.

2. To agree different boundaries for the Area Committees to those recommended in the Report, in particular, to place Tunstall and Humbledon ward in West Area Committee rather than East and to place Barnes and Thornhill ward in East Area Committee rather than West.

This is not recommended as it would have a more significant impact on Community Organisations delivering in those areas, where there are established VCSE Networks and those networks work closely with Area Committees to deliver for communities. This option would necessitate an increased number of moves of Organisations within those networks, placing additional strain on them. In addition, this option would create a more significant impact on community assets and facilities, with the proposal meaning twice as many would shift into different Area Committee boundaries compared to current arrangements where there are well-established working relationships.

3. Not to undertake a review of the Terms of Reference for Area Committees.

This is not recommended as it is considered that a review will maximise the potential to add value to the Council's approach to engagement with residents and communities.

Impacts analysed:

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes

Is it included in the 28-day Notice of Decisions? Yes

CABINET - 12 FEBRUARY 2026

AREA COMMITTEE BOUNDARY REVIEW

Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for revisions to Area Committee boundaries, encompassing the changes to ward boundaries that will be enacted under the Sunderland (Electoral Changes) Order 2025 (the 2025 Order) from May 2026 and for the review and refresh of the Terms of Reference associated with Area Committees, set out in Article 10 of the Constitution.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Recommend to Council to:

- i. approve the revisions to 3 of the 5 existing Area Committee boundaries and revise ward names within all 5 boundaries as set out in the Report and Appendix 1, to take effect from 7th May 2026; and
- ii. authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend Article 10 of the Constitution to reflect these changes and to make such other consequential amendments to the Constitution as are necessary.

2. Agree to work with Elected Members and other partners to review the Terms of Reference for Area Committees set out in Article 10 of the Constitution and bring forward refreshed proposals to Council for approval; and.

3. Approve and endorse the revised funding allocations for each of the Area Committees as set out in paragraph 3.6 and 3.7.

3.0 Background/Current Position

3.1 The 2025 Order was enacted following the review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Boundary Commission). With effect from 7th May 2026, the 2025 Order abolishes the existing wards in the City, which from that date will be divided into the 25 wards listed in the Schedule to the Order, with each ward comprising the area shown on the relevant map held by the Boundary Commission. These changes will impact on 3 of the 5 existing Area Committee boundaries as some of the new wards will cross existing area boundaries (Sunderland East, West and Coalfield). Additionally, several ward boundaries will encompass slightly different geographies and/or have been renamed. These changes will need to be reflected in Article 10 of the Constitution, so that it is clear which wards are contained within each Area Committee boundary.

3.2 It is proposed that the changes to Article 10 will come into effect on the 7th May, as this is the date on which the new ward arrangements under the 2025

Order come into force. This will also ensure that the updated arrangements are in place in time for Annual Council and the appointment of elected members to the various Council committees, including the Area Committees.

- 3.3 Additionally, decisions on the boundaries are required in order that data can be gathered to inform the review of Area Committee Area Plans. The current 2023 – 2026 Area Plans are in the last year of delivery and are due to be reviewed and approved for implementation from April 2026 for a further 3-year period. It is proposed that existing Area Plan priorities are extended for a further year to allow sufficient time to gather data and carry out resident engagement which will in turn inform the development of future area plans, the detail of which will be the subject of a separate Cabinet report in March 2026.
- 3.4 The proposed new Area Committee boundaries and ward names are attached as Appendix 1 – Area Committee Boundaries Map 1 and outlined below: -
- **Sunderland North** – Hylton Castle, Redhouse, Southwick, Fulwell, Roker wards
 - **Sunderland East** – Deptford and Hendon, Tunstall and Humbledon, Grangetown, Ryhope, Doxford Park wards.
 - **Sunderland West** – Pennywell and South Hylton, Pallion and Ford, Grindon and Thorney Close, Farrington and Silksworth, Barnes and Thornhill wards.
 - **Washington** – Washington Central, East, North, South and West wards.
 - **Coalfield** – Penshaw and Shiney Row, Herrington and Newbottle, Houghton North, Houghton South and Hetton Downs, Hetton wards.
- 3.5 The proposals outlined in 3.4 incorporate the need for boundary changes to East, West and Coalfield Area Committees. This is the preferred option as it creates the least disruption for elected members and community organisations who deliver in those areas and are members of the established Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Networks. This proposal affects fewer organisations and facilities, reducing the strain on VCSE organisations that are part of the existing networks, many of whom are embedded within current Area Committee arrangements and benefit from well-established working relationships.
- 3.6 These proposals reflect 5 wards in each of the Area Committees. Using a similar approach previously adopted to allocate funding to each Area Committee, it is proposed to allocate £100,000 to each committee, with the remainder allocated based on population. The following allocations are proposed: Sunderland North £390,403; Sunderland East £410,705; Sunderland West £427,183; Washington £389,446; and Coalfield £388,929.
- 3.7 Given that new ward boundaries will not be introduced until 7th May 2026 it also proposed that of the £10,000 Community Chest allocated per ward for 2026-2027, £1,000 of it is allocated in the existing ward boundary from 1st April through to 6th May and the remaining £9,000 is allocated based upon the new ward boundary from 7th May, 2026 and for the remainder of the financial year.

3.8 Area Committees are well established and provide a valuable forum for elected members and partners, along with community representatives including the VCSE, to come together and discuss issues related to their Area. Recent resident feedback from the annual resident survey and extensive engagement carried out to inform the Strengthening Communities strategy, in addition to recommendations made as a result of the recent LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, has suggested that the strengths of Area Committees could be further built on in terms of engagement with residents and communities. As such, it is proposed that work be undertaken with Area Committees to review the potential for bolstered resident engagement and links to communities, building on the good practice that already exists to identify areas for improvement.

3.8 It is therefore proposed that a further review is carried out of the Area Committee arrangements, to consider the role of the Committees and the elected members alongside partners and community representatives, with a view to producing refreshed terms of reference. With a particular focus on data, insight and engagement, this will support the development and delivery of Area Committee Area Plans and any priorities at a local or neighbourhood level, in addition to reviewing how Area Committees are operating in those revised boundary areas.

4.0 Reasons for the Decision

4.1 The changes to ward boundaries and ward names introduced as a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission review and subsequent enactment of the 2025 Order impacts on the provisions for Area Committees set out in Article 10 of the Council's Constitution. Amending Article 10 as proposed in the report will ensure that Area Committee boundaries and ward names are consistent with the relevant provisions of the 2025 Order, when they come into effect.

4.2 Feedback from resident engagement and the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge recommendations identified the potential for Area Committees to add value to the Council's wider approach to engagement with residents and communities and it is considered that this can best be developed in consultation with elected members and partners.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Not to amend the provisions regarding Area Committees as set out in Article 10 of the Constitution.

This is not recommended as if Article 10 remains unchanged, its provisions will not be consistent with the relevant provisions of the 2025 Order when they come into effect.

5.2 To agree different boundaries for the Area Committees to those recommended in the Report, in particular, to place Tunstall and Humbledon ward in West Area Committee rather than East and to place Barnes and Thornhill ward in East Area Committee rather than West.

This is not recommended as it would have a more significant impact on Community Organisations delivering in those areas, where there are established VCSE Networks and those networks work closely with Area

Committees to deliver for communities. This option would necessitate an increased number of moves of Organisations within those networks, placing additional strain on them. In addition, this option would create a more significant impact on community assets and facilities, with the proposal meaning twice as many would shift into different Area Committee boundaries compared to current arrangements where there are well-established working relationships.

5.3 Not to undertake a review of the Terms of Reference for Area Committees.

This is not recommended as it is considered that a review will maximise the potential to add value to the Council's approach to engagement with residents and communities.

6.0 Impact Analysis

(a) **Equalities** - The proposed revisions to Area Committee boundaries and associated constitutional changes are administrative in nature and are designed to ensure alignment with the ward boundaries established under the Sunderland (Electoral Changes) Order 2025, with no negative equality impacts. Work done to review the Terms of Reference for Area Committees will be subject to equality analysis at the appropriate stage of their development.

(b) Sustainability

Sunderland City Plan Strategy Objectives cross checked with decisions. outcomes:

Dynamic Smart City

- ✓ A stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities
- ✓ More and better housing
- ✓ More and better jobs
- ✓ More local people with better qualifications and skills
- ✓ A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all

Healthy Smart City

- ✓ Great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all
- ✓ Equitable opportunities and the best life chances for children
- ✓ High quality support and social care that enables those who need it to live the life they want to lead
- ✓ Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- ✓ A cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods

Vibrant Smart City

- ✓ Residents who are more resilient to ongoing challenges including the cost-of-living crisis
- ✓ Residents feeling proud of the city and the place where they live with more people active and participating in their communities
- ✓ More people visiting Sunderland with businesses thriving and more residents shaping and participating in cultural events and activities

- ✓ More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and businesses benefitting from the city's safe and secure environment

(c) **Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion**

Area Committees working in collaboration with key stakeholders can develop, design and deliver programmes, services and new investments that will positively impact on crime and disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour and improve community cohesion as well as supporting vulnerable groups away from criminal behaviour.

7.0 **Financial Implications**

Financial provision for Neighbourhood Funding of £2,006,666 to support the delivery of the five Area Committee Area Plan priorities for 2026/2027 is included within the Council's revenue budget for 2026.2027. Wider financial support for the plans will also be explored from partners or where partners can deliver activity directly.

8.0 **Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

Co-operative Values – Area Committees, through delivery of the five Area Committee Area Plans, demonstrate the values of a Co-operative Council by providing better and more resilient neighbourhoods, providing support for those in greatest need and creating more mixed and sustainable communities.

Risk Analysis – The Area Committee Area Plans sit within a financial and governance framework that would be fully monitored and assessed. All projects in terms of financial viability and risks are scrutinised by relevant officers within the area arrangements service and considered by each Area Committee for approval.

Legal Implications – The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on this report, and her comments have been incorporated throughout, where necessary.

Policy Implications – The Council is committed to the Area Committee Area Plans and delivery will align with existing Council policy arrangements.

Implications for Other Services – Council Services are required to identify Area Priorities as part of the Council's approach to developing Service Plans.

The Public / External Bodies – The Council works extensively and closely with elected members and partners across the city in supporting the role of the Area Committee and in the development and delivery of the Area Committee Area Plans in addition to engaging with residents.

10.0. **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Area Committee Boundaries Map 1

Appendix 2 – Area Committee Boundaries Map 2

Full Map 1



Full Map 2



Report of the Human Resources Committee

The HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE reports and recommends as follows: -

1. Pay Policy Statement 2026-2027

That at a meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 9 March 2026, they considered a report of the Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services (copy attached) on the Pay Policy Statement for 2026-2027.

The Human Resources Committee recommends to Council that the Pay Policy Statement 2026-2027 be approved and published on the Council's website.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026-2027

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SMART CITIES AND ENABLING SERVICES

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Pay Policy Statement 2026-2027 to the Human Resources Committee for recommendation to Council for approval and publication.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The Human Resources Committee is invited to consider the information set out in this report and recommend Council to approve for publication the Pay Policy Statement 2026-2027, as set out in the Appendix to this report.

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.
- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement needs to be approved by Council and published by 31st March 2026. The 2025-26 Pay Policy Statement 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 Human Resources 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:

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/transparency>.

- 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. A separate report on this topic is included on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The proposed draft Pay Policy Statement 2026-27 is attached as an Appendix to this report. The amendments in comparison with the 2025-2026 Pay Policy Statement are: changes to dates, a national increase in JNC pay rates, structural changes, 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. 31/03/2026.
- 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 £215,022 and the median paid is £28,142 therefore the ratio is 7.64:1. This ratio remains the same as 2025-2026 which was also 7.64:1.

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.

Pay Policy Statement 2026-2027**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 is to be approved by the Council and applies to the financial year 2026-2027.

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 City 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 for the whole of the council's workforce). The highest pay is £215,022 and the median pay is £28,142 therefore the ratio is 7.64:1.

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 employee information or Website URL: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12206/Senior-employee-information>

3. Pay

Pay Policy

Pay policy is determined by the Council, following consideration of recommendations of the Council's Human Resources 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 position of the affordability 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 either by the Human Resources Committee or under delegated powers by the Director of Smart Cities and Enabling 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 288,606 (Source: Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates, England and Wales, 2024)
- An overall budget of £868.6m for total revenue expenditure.
- Undertaking the role of the Head of Paid Service to 4276 employees. (* Figures include maintained schools. This data is accurate at 31st January 2026 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. All current market supplements are under review.

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 £215,022.

b) Direct reports to the Chief Executive

The current salary of these posts falls within a range called Leadership 3 £122,401 rising to a maximum of £144,881 and Leadership 4 £108,164 rising to a maximum of £122,410.

The salaries of the posts are as follows:

- Executive Director of Economy & Place £170,454 which includes a market supplement.
- Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of Together for Children £153,768 which includes a market supplement.
- Executive Director of Public Health & Wellbeing £94,967 which includes a market supplement.
- Director of Finance (section 151 Officer) £144,881. The postholder is also the Deputy Chief Executive.
- Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services £144,881
- Director of Adult Services (Chief Operating Officer of Sunderland Care and Support) £144,881
- Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs £122,410.
- Director of City Services £122,410.

c) The designated Monitoring Officer, which is the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, is paid within a range called Leadership 5 of £95,878 - £108,164

d) Assistant Directors and other officers report 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 six different ranges:
Leadership 4 (£108,164 - £122,410), Leadership 5 (£95,878 -

£108,164); Leadership 6 (£82,588 - £95,878); Leadership 7 (£69,715 - £82,588), Grade 11 £60,244-£64,869 and Grade 10 £53,460 - £54,495. For certain posts, a market supplement is paid, in line with the principles above.

All current market supplements are under review.

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 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, (£24,796 per annum for a full time 37 hour week post as at 31st March 2026), 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 and are those 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 7.64:1.

(The highest pay is £215,022 and the median pay is £28,142).

7. Pension Schemes

There are two 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.

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.

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

COUNCIL

25 MARCH 2026

The AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE reports and recommends as follows: -

1. Annual Report on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2024/2025

That the Audit and Governance Committee have given consideration to a report by the Director of Finance (copy attached) on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2024/2025, demonstrating how they have fulfilled their delegated responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends Council to note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2024/2025.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE 2024/25

Report of the Director of Finance

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee during 2024/25 and the outcome of this work. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate how the Committee has fulfilled its role and will be presented to Council once agreed by the Committee.

2. Purpose and Role of the Committee

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is a key component in the Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements. Its main objectives are to:

- Provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, internal control environment and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- Oversee the annual financial reporting and governance processes.
- Oversee internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

- 2.2 Its role is to:

- Approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts, income and expenditure, and balance sheet or record of receipts and payments (as the case may be).
- Consider the effectiveness of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements, risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements and seek assurance that action is being taken on risk-related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
- Be satisfied that the Authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- Receive, consider and monitor reports on treasury management policy, strategy and practices.

3. Matters Considered

- 3.1 The Committee met four times during the year to consider its business. All appropriate officers of the Council have been in attendance at the meetings to present reports and provide additional information in order to clarify issues and respond to questions from members of the Committee. Regular attendees at the meetings were the Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Assurance and Procurement, Senior Manager - Assurance and the Council's External Auditors.
- 3.2 To enable the Committee to fulfil its role as set out in paragraph 2.2, a range of reports were considered, as follows:
- a) Members received briefings in relation to the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts and Treasury Management arrangements.
 - b) The Committee endorsed the Risk and Assurance Map for 2024/25 which sets out the key risk areas for the Council, the assurances that would be gathered in relation to them and where the assurances would be sought from. The report included the plans of work for the year for Internal Audit and Risk and Assurance, and the performance indicators for Internal Audit. The Committee was also given the opportunity to identify any areas of work to be considered for the year. Members sought assurances on the expertise of the external firm being used to support Internal Audit to complete its audit plan for the year.
 - c) Progress reports in relation to the Risk and Assurance Map, including updates to the strategic and corporate risk profiles, were presented to the Committee. These provided details of the level of assurance for the risk areas from management, specialist assurance functions, Internal Audit, Risk and Assurance, the external auditor and other external agencies.
 - d) Specific key issues were highlighted within the Risk and Assurance Map update reports for members to consider further, members raised queries including, changes to risk scores and the actions being taken to address them, how certain activity/issues within the City would impact the Strategic Risk Profile, actions required to improve certain Internal Audit Opinions and the pilots being used to develop the Council's approach to Risk Appetite.
 - e) Members received a report regarding the external quality review regarding Internal Audit's compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The Internal Audit service was judged to be fully compliant with the Standards with a small number of actions being recommended to further enhance the delivery of the Service. The Committee continued to monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

- f) External Auditors provided their Audit Strategy Memorandum setting out their work for 2023/24, and an Auditor's Annual Report for the financial year's 2021/22 and 2022/23, the completion of which was positive compared to the position for many other local authorities. The audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 was also completed on time and reported to the Committee in September 2024. Progress Reports were presented as appropriate throughout the year.
- g) The results of the Annual Governance Review for 2023/24 were presented, which summarises the overall governance arrangements in place within the Council. The head of internal audit's opinion on the Council's internal control environment was positive. The resultant Annual Governance Statement highlighted the good corporate governance arrangements in place and was approved by the Committee and included within the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- h) There is a requirement to undertake an annual assessment of the Council's status as a going concern in line with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice. The Committee received the report in relation to this which sets out the evidence relied upon to make the assessment.
- i) The Committee received reports in relation to the Council's Treasury Management arrangements to receive assurance that they are appropriate and approved the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy. The Committee asked questions in relation to various aspects of the reports.
- j) The Committee received the Data Protection Annual Report 2023/24.

3.3 From the reports presented the Committee has been proactively monitoring activity in a number of important areas, as follows:

- *Risk and Assurance Map* – The Committee closely monitored activity in relation to changes to the strategic risk scores. In particular numerous questions were asked regarding how specific current issues would impact on the Council's risk position.
- *Statement of Accounts* – The Committee closely monitored the position of delays in the External Auditors being able to complete the audits of the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, issues which were impacting the whole country. Members were pleased with the work of the Council's finance officers and the external auditors for bringing the situation to a conclusion.
- *Treasury Management* – The Committee has received regular updates regarding the Council's performance in relation to Treasury Management. Members raised various questions about the Council's approach.

3.4 It can be seen that the work of the committee is wide ranging with members monitoring performance more closely in those areas where it was deemed appropriate.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the report and provide any comments for inclusion prior to the report being presented to Council.

Reports

COUNCIL**25 MARCH 2026****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

25 MARCH 2026

**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the appointment of a Member to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board, to appointments to existing committee vacancies and the extension of the appointment of the Independent Persons.

2.0 Northumbria Local Resilience Board

2.1 The Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (NLRF) is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other organisations involved in emergency preparedness. NLRF is participating in a Government pilot scheme committed to strengthening the Government's Local Resilience Forums programme and in turn, bolstering national resilience.

2.2 As part of the pilot scheme, a Board is to be established which has a number of key resilience priorities, provides oversight and is the governance mechanism for the Chief Resilience Officer to report into and to be given direction by the Board. The voting members of the Board are the Police and Crime Commissioner of Northumbria and an elected member from each of the local authorities (Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland and South Tyneside). Other non-voting members also form part of the Board.

2.3 Council is requested to approve the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Equalities to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board.

3.0 Existing Committee Vacancies

3.1 The Council has previously considered changes to committee nominations which were required due to the recalculation of the political balance. A number of appointments were agreed at the Council meeting on 28 January 2026. The remaining vacancies are summarised in the table below:

Committee	Member(s) to be Appointed
Standards Committee	Ungrouped Member
Joint Consultative Committee	Ungrouped Member

Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Ungrouped Member
Appeals Committee	Labour Group Member

4.0 Appointment of Independent Persons

- 4.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views must be sought and taken into account before the Standards Committee makes a decision in respect of an allegation against a Member which has been investigated. The Independent Person's views may also be sought by a Member who is the subject of a complaint.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 15th May 2024, the Council appointed Mr Dennis Hall and Mr Stuart Green as Independent Persons, each for a term of two years' duration, which may be extended by the Council for two further two-year terms (i.e. six years in total). The Council also agreed to award an annual allowance of £1,000 for undertaking the role of Independent Person and to reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence expenses.
- 4.3 Mr Hall and Mr Green have provided valuable input and support to the Standards Committee processes and it is therefore recommended that their periods of office be extended by a further period of two years from 15th May 2026.

5.0 Recommendations

The Council is accordingly invited to approve the following:

- (i) the appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Equalities to the Northumbria Local Resilience Board;
- (ii) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Standards Committee;
- (iii) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Joint Consultative Committee;
- (iv) the appointment of an ungrouped member to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee;
- (v) the appointment of a Labour Group member to the Appeals Committee; and
- (vi) the extension of the period of appointment of Mr Dennis Hall and Mr Stuart Green as Independent Persons as set out in the report, for an additional period of two years from 15th May 2026 and to continue to award an annual allowance of £1,000 for undertaking the role of Independent Person and to reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence costs.

Motions on Notice

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Love Sunderland – Stronger Communities and Support for Our Voluntary Sector

This Council believes in *our whole city* - in Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.

We believe in the strength of every neighbourhood, every village, every community, and in the resilience and extraordinary spirit that defines all parts of our city. Everything we do as a Council - every policy, every investment, every decision - is driven by our love for Sunderland in its fullest sense and our commitment to the future of *all* our communities.

Sunderland has never been defined by those who wish to divide us. Our city is defined by the people who bring others together, who look out for their neighbours, and who stand up for fairness, kindness and community from Shiney Row to Southwick, from Washington Village to Hendon.

It is this spirit - the spirit of *Love Sunderland* - that guides this Council and shapes our priorities.

This Council notes:

- The Stronger Communities Framework reflects our core purpose: building a united, confident and compassionate city across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
- The VCSE sector embodies the very best of every part of our area. Rooted in neighbourhoods, powered by volunteers, trusted by residents, and driven by love for the people they serve.
- Insights from the 2024 Resident Survey and experiences during the August 2024 disorder show clearly that community and voluntary organisations are among our greatest assets in strengthening resilience, tackling misinformation and supporting local people everywhere across the city.
- During the disorder, it was residents, volunteers and community groups from *all* corners of Sunderland - Washington, the Coalfields and the city centre - who stepped forward and showed what this city really stands for: decency, dignity, unity and pride.
- The Council's recent budget includes £1.2 million of new investment to strengthen community-led work and support grassroots organisations that make an everyday difference across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
- The countless acts of kindness and solidarity shown by residents and local groups deserve recognition and the full support of this Council.

This Council believes:

- Ours is a city held together by love. Love for our communities, our heritage, our future and each other.
- Divisive rhetoric and attempts to pit residents or neighbourhoods against one another have no place here. Our city succeeds when we lift each other up, not when people attempt to drag our communities down for political gain.

- The Council has a responsibility to champion unity, challenge misinformation, and ensure our policies reflect the values that define our people: fairness, opportunity, pride and community spirit.
- Backing the voluntary and community sector is not just good policy, it is a statement of who we are as a city. It is an investment in the strength, heart and resilience of Sunderland in all its parts.

This Council resolves to:

1. Embed the Stronger Communities Framework across all Council services to ensure every part of our work reflects our commitment to unity, compassion and fairness across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.
2. Strengthen partnerships with VCSE organisations, recognising them as key partners in supporting local people and building community pride in every neighbourhood.
3. Ensure the £1.2 million investment delivers real, local impact, empowering neighbourhoods, supporting volunteers and helping community organisations grow and thrive in all parts of the city.
4. Deepen engagement with residents, ensuring local voices, local pride and local expertise shape Council decisions.
5. Stand firmly against those who seek to divide our communities, reject misinformation, and promote the true values of Sunderland in all its communities.
6. Provide an annual report to Full Council on the progress made, celebrating the achievements of communities, volunteers and the VCSE sector across Sunderland, Washington and the Coalfields.

Because in Sunderland, our strength is not just in our streets or our skyline, but in the hearts of people across *all* our communities who choose unity, compassion and hope every single day.

Proposer: Cllr Beth Jones
 Seconder: Cllr Alison Smith

Additional Signatories

Cllr Mordey	Cllr Tobin	Cllr D Snowdon
Cllr Chequer	Cllr Scanlan	Cllr Samuels
Cllr Leonard	Cllr Williams	Cllr Trueman
Cllr Butler	Cllr Thornton	Cllr Dagg
Cllr Johnston	Cllr Price	Cllr Speding
Cllr D E Snowdon	Cllr Elms	Cllr Laverick
Cllr Chapman	Cllr Glancy	Cllr Clinton

2. A resident focused approach

Council notes that after 53 years in power this Labour administration is out of ideas, out of money, and out of time. Council notes that it is time for a new administration to run this Council with fresh ideas and a resident focused approach

Proposer: Cllr Paul Edgeworth
 Seconder: Cllr Steven Donkin

Additional Signatories

Cllr Bond	Cllr Haswell	Cllr Potts
Cllr Crosby	Cllr Hodson	Cllr Walton
Cllr Fagan	Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Wood
Cllr Gibson		

3. Say 'No' to HMOs

Council believes that in any modern city, a diverse range of housing options are required to match the needs of the population. The Council also recognises that every community within Sunderland is unique and distinctive and it is important that we preserve the character of these areas. The Council also believes that the City has a shortage of quality family housing and the conversion of family dwellings to HMO properties exacerbates this problem.

Council recognises that there is a need to increase the housing supply, but believes that this must be balanced against the concerns there are about the proliferation of HMOs and about the impact this can have on established communities and neighbourhoods and how they can undermine the character of historical parts of Sunderland. The Council notes that the police often raise concerns through the planning process in relation to HMO conversions because of the impact they can have on community cohesion.

Council also notes the importance of the provision of decent, high quality accommodation and that often HMOs are over intensive for the building they are put in, leaving rooms below adequate size.

Although the creation of new HMOs is limited via an Article 4 Direction in some parts of the city, this is not city wide and even where it is in place has had limited impact in restricting the creation of new HMOs.

Council therefore:

- Calls on the Council Leader to consider the options for further restricting HMO conversions as part of revised local planning policies, including a city-wide Article 4 Direction. Such a Direction should include a requirement for all conversions from C3 to C4 to require planning permission, and that this permission should be considered based on the existing character of the local area, the impact on communities, and the wishes of local residents.
- Calls for covenants to be placed on all future Council new builds or disposals (including Right to Buy) to prevent future conversion of these properties into flats or HMOs.
- Asks the Council Leader to write, jointly with the other Group Leaders, to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to reflect the views of residents in Sunderland that there is a need within the city to ensure that family homes in communities are protected. This letter should call for more powers to be given to Local Authorities to further restrict the number of HMOs within their area without

Additional Signatories

Cllr Mordey	Cllr Foster	Cllr Thornton
Cllr Laws	Cllr Dagg	Cllr Price
Cllr Stewart	Cllr Chisnall	Cllr Laverick
Cllr Chapman	Cllr Samuels	Cllr Clinton
Cllr Williams		

