

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023 at 4.00pm

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

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

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen Greenfield and Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Apologies

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

Minutes

38. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declaration of Interests

The following Councillors declared interests as follows:-

Cllr Bewick	An employee of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr Blackburn	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Butler	Member of Unison
Cllr Chequer	Member of Unite
Cllr Chisnall	Member of Unison
Cllr Doyle	Governor at Fulwell Junior School and employer provides consultancy on the Sunnyside Regeneration project
Cllr Farthing	Member of Unison
Cllr Fletcher	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Guy	Member of Unite
Cllr Herron	Member of Unison
Cllr K. Johnston	Member of Unite and Shop Steward
Cllr Lauchlan	Member of Unite and Branch Secretary at Durham University
Cllr Laws	Employee of University and College Union and Member of Unite
Cllr Mason-Gage	Member of Unison and Unite
Cllr F. Miller	Member of Unite
Cllr G. Miller	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr Rowntree	Member of Unison
Cllr Samuels	Member Unite and a Member of the Community Union.
Cllr Scott	Member of Unison
Cllr P. Smith	Member of G.M.B. and Non-Executive Director of Gentoo
Cllr D.E. Snowdon	Member of Unison
Cllr Speding	Member of G.M.B., Member of the Football Association and Chairman of the Durham County Football Association
Cllr Stewart	Member of Unison, Chairman of Governors of Willow Wood Primary School and Chairman of Bishopwearmouth Co-operative.
Cllr Thornton	Member of Unison

Cllr Tye	Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and Member of Unison
Cllr M. Walker	Member of G.M.B.
Cllr P. Walker	Member of Unison

Announcements

Former Councillor Raymond Marshall

It was with sadness that the Mayor referred Council to the recent death of former Councillor Raymond Marshall

Former Councillor Marshall served as a Conservative member of the (County) Borough Council representing the old Humbledon Ward in the late 1960s / early 1970s and then the St. Michael's Ward until the 1980s.

The Mayor invited Council to join her in sending condolences to the family and friends of Raymond Marshall and in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague.

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 13 October 2022, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 – 2026/2027 report which was referred from the October Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the report including the budget planning framework and updated capital strategy. The Committee also recognised the importance of budget consultation with key stakeholders and increased engagement with the public.

As in previous years there remained a number of uncertainties, pressures and challenges around the budget that the committee would continue to monitor through future budget reports.

The Committee had no further comment at that time.

- On 8 December 2022, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 – 2026/2027 report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the information contained in the detailed report as well as noting a number of uncertainties that remained around funding and the local government settlement which would be resolved in due course.

The Committee also recommended that serious consideration was given to limiting any rises in council tax given the current financial climate and the impact this would have on residents of the City and the services they needed to access.

The Committee also recommended that consideration was given to the way we communicate with residents in the future and if a printed newsletter was needed.

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee also acknowledged the hard work of officers and members in the preparation of the budget and the medium-term financial plan.

The Committee would continue to monitor the budget through the reports and had no further comment to make at that time.

- On 9 February 2023, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered Budget and Service Reports on Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2022/2023, Capital Programme 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023/2024, including Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2023/2024 and Medium-term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 reports which were referred from the February Cabinet meeting:

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

The Committee was pleased to note that despite the ongoing pressures for the Council and its services that it had also recognised the challenges facing our residents in setting the Council Tax for 2023/24, and therefore noted the recommended Council Tax increase, which still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the budget consultation that was undertaken.

Finally, the Committee also recorded its thanks to Officers and Members for their continued work and diligence in preparing the budgetary information presented to this Committee and other key stakeholders and had no further comments to make.

That they had also referred the proposals for Capital Programme Planning 2023/2024 – 2026/2027 to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- On 8 December 2022, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considered the Capital Programme Planning 2023/2024 – 2026/2027 and Capital Strategy report which was referred from the December Cabinet meeting:

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted the report and the additional proposals outlined within the report. The Committee would continue to monitor the capital programme through the regular updates and had no further comment to make at that time.

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 3 February 2023, the Audit and Governance Committee was consulted specifically on the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023/2024.

The Committee noted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023/2024 and the Prudential Treasury Management Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027.

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 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 22 February 2023:

- The precept figures of the Police and Crime Commissioner Northumbria (PCCN) would mean an increase of 9.75% in the precept level for 2023/2024; and
- The precept figures of the Parish of Hetton Town Council would mean an increase of 0% in the precept level for 2023/2024.

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority had supplied its best estimate of their proposed precepts pending their meeting on 13 February 2023 and should any changes to the proposed precepts arise, a supplementary report would be prepared and circulated. The proposed precept figures of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFR) would mean an increase of 5.72% in the precept level for 2023/2024.

The position set out at Item 3 of the report as Determination of Council Tax 2023/2024 reflected the above notified 2023/2024 precept levels in respect of the Precepting Authorities.

NOTE:

In relation to the report numbered 2 below entitled “Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2023/2024 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027”, 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 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023/2024, including Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027

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

- the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/2024;
- the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023/2024 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- the Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027; and
- the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/2024.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/2024;
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2023/2024 (including specifically the Annual Borrowing and Investment Strategies);
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027; and
- (iv) the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/2024.

2. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2023/2024 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027

That they had considered the report of the Director of Finance which is at the following link [\[Cabinet 2 February 2023\]](#) on:

- (a) the overall revenue budget position for 2023/2024;
- (b) the projected reserves position as at 31st March 2023 and 31st March 2024 and advise on their sufficiency;
- (c) a risk analysis of the Revenue Budget 2023/2024;
- (d) a summary of the emerging medium term financial position facing the Council from 2023/2024 to 2026/2027, 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 2023-35 including the indicative timeline.

The attached report of the Director of Finance to Council set out the proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2023/2024 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 as recommended by Cabinet.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve: -

- (i) the proposals set out in the report including the proposed Revenue Budget for 2023/2024 set out at Appendix J;
- (ii) the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 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 2023-35 including the indicative timeline.

3. Determination of Council Tax 2023/2024

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance making, subject to the approval of the Revenue Budget 2023/2024 (as set out at item 2 above), recommendations with respect to Council Tax levels for 2023/2024, 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 25 January 2023, 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 2023/2024 for its own purposes is £120,523,138 (excluding Parish precepts) and which represents a 2.99% increase in council tax for 2023/2024. It should be noted that this includes the additional ringfenced social care precept of 1%.
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 25th January 2023 the Council approved the following amounts for the year 2023/2024 in accordance with the amended regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 'Act'):
 - a) 73,619 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) 4,185 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 2023/2024 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - a) £759,716,307 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) £639,132,654 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- c) £120,583,653 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) £1,637.9420 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) £60,515 being the precept notified by Hetton Town Council as a special item under Section 34 of the Act.
- f) £1,637.1200 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) £1,651.5800 being the amount given by adding to the amount at (iii) (f) above, the amount at (iii) (e) divided by the amount at (ii) (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the area of the Parish of Hetton Town Council.
- h) Charges relating to the Council

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,101.05	1,091.41
B	1,284.56	1,273.31
C	1,468.07	1,455.21
D	1,651.58	1,637.12
E	2,018.60	2,000.93
F	2,385.62	2,364.73
G	2,752.63	2,728.53
H	3,303.16	3,274.24

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 2023/2024, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria have confirmed the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings as follows:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	112.56	61.57
B	131.32	71.83
C	150.08	82.09
D	168.84	92.35
E	206.36	112.87
F	243.88	133.39
G	281.40	153.92
H	337.68	184.70

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii) (h) and (iv) above and having received confirmation of the precept in paragraph (iv), the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/2024 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Band	Hetton Town Council £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,275.18	1,265.54
B	1,487.71	1,476.46
C	1,700.24	1,687.38
D	1,912.77	1,898.31
E	2,337.83	2,320.16
F	2,762.89	2,742.00
G	3,187.95	3,163.85
H	3,825.54	3,796.62

- (vi) To determine that under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/2024 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act.

(i.e. the proposed council tax increase for 2023/2024 means that the Council does not need to hold a referendum on its proposed council tax. The provisions set out in Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require all billing authorities (councils and precept authorities (i.e. Fire and Police authorities)) to hold a referendum on their proposed level of basic council tax each year if they exceed government guidelines set out annually.)

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

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

Revenue Budget

Savings

i) Reallocate part of the Neighbourhood Fund to neighbourhood priorities (outlined below)	£1,000,000
ii) Reduction in the Corporate Affairs and Communications budget	£500,000
iii) Reduction in the Events budget	£500,000
iv) Cuts to councillors' allowances	£224,040

Merge Deputy Leader and Cabinet Secretary roles to create a Deputy Leader and Corporate Services role
Merge the four existing cabinet positions into three, to reflect the new Chief Officer Group structure: Environmental Services and City Development; Children, Education and Culture; Health, Housing and Communities

Reduce the Leader's SRA by £2,667 (leading to an automatic reduction in Majority Opposition Leader SRA)

Delete the Minority Opposition Leader's SRA

Delete the four Deputy Cabinet Member posts

Reduce the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Chair SRA by £9,556

Reduce the Thematic Scrutiny Chair SRAs – totalling £6,537

Reduce the five Area Committee Chair SRAs – totalling £36,750

Reduce the Licensing Committee and Planning and Highways Committee Chair SRAs by £5,369

Delete the SRAs for Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Co-ordinating, Planning and Highways, Licencing, and Area Committee – totalling £43,939

Reduce the Mayoral allowance by £7,500 and the Deputy Mayoral allowance entirely

v) Reallocate part of the Public Health budget to a suicide prevention package (outlined below)	£150,000
vi) Move to a full paperless model for e-magazine and meeting agendas	£139,000
vii) Reduce the Members Support budget and move towards pre-recorded training tutorials	£100,000
viii) Reduction in the Business and Investment budget, including the £59,908 that continues to be spent on Japan/America and international travel	£100,000
ix) Reduction in TU facility time	£100,000
x) Revised profit projection for the Port	£50,000
xi) End chauffeured executive cars for the Mayor and Labour cabinet members	£42,190
xii) Abolish councillors' expenses budget	£35,000
TOTAL	£2,940,23

Spending

i) Reduce Labour's Council Tax increase	£2,320,216
ii) A suicide prevention scheme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing the suicide prevention work funded by DHS• Suicide prevention infrastructure for Wearmouth Bridge – feasibility study	£150,000
iii) Making permits for residents in CPMS areas free across the city	£137,000
iv) Park and Cemetery Wardens (x3)	£103,908
v) Expand the Council's arborist team (x2 senior arborists)	£76,208

vi) Introduce 100 new bins across the city	£66,744
vii) Sponsorship Manager for Sunderland Air Show and other events	£53,643
viii) Develop a digital tourism campaign for Sunderland	£10,000
ix) Introduce 10 Schools Streets schemes across the city	£10,000
x) Installation and maintenance of 10 new grit bins	£5,010
xi) Asset transfer of Southern Area Playing Fields to a trust established by Washington United FC	£5,000
xii) Increase CCTV monitoring capacity	£2,500
xiii) Increase the Carbon Reduction budget	£1
xiv) Introduce an Innovation Rewards scheme to improve Council efficiency	£NIL
TOTAL	£2,940,230

Capital Budget

Savings

i) Delete the remaining F-Pit budget	£4,540,000
ii) Reallocate the VAS budget to a general anti-speeding infrastructure fund	£100,000
TOTAL	£4,640,000

Spending

i) Traffic light system at the Broadway roundabout	£2,400,000
ii) Road and Pavement Repair Fund	£1,500,000
iii) Anti-speeding infrastructure fund	£250,000
iv) Roker Park Lodge funding (community allotment)	£200,000
v) ANPR cameras for School Streets enforcement	£120,000
vi) Pedestrianisation of Marine Walk	£100,000

vii) Fulwell War Memorial upgrade	£50,000
viii) CCTV camera at the Holiday Inn, Washington	£10,000
ix) Develop and deliver, on a commercial basis, a Padel tennis court at Silksworth Tennis Centre	£NIL
TOTAL	£4,630,000

The Conservative Group's proposed amendments to the Revenue and Capital Budgets were then put to the vote with 29 Members voting in favour:-

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

40 Members voting against:-

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

And no Members abstaining.

The Amendment was defeated.

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

The Amendment to the proposals was as follows: -

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget 2023/24 Revenue Budget Savings Proposals	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3, as outlined in proposal number 2	-100,000
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees, coterminous with parliamentary constituencies (giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs). Will also mean a reduction in the number of new Neighbourhood Boards as only 3 Vice Chairs to Chair them)	-33,254
Review and reduction of basic and special responsibility allowances (SRAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Deputy Cabinet Members • Remove Vice Chair Scrutiny Coordinating Committee • Reduction in SRAs of all other roles 15% • Reduce Basic Allowance by 5% • Roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be replaced by unpaid elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and allowances removed • Reduce Councillors' expenses, food and drink provision, subsistence allowance and broadband and home phone allowances 	-237,461
Reduce Corporate Communications budget	-338,227
Scrap ComRes residents survey and Council magazine	-136,605
Remove budget for carbon reduction	-1,075,519
TOTAL	-1,921,066

2023/24 Revenue Budget Priority Investments	£
Reduce Council Tax rise by 1%	1,171,000
Make permanent additional environmental services staff employed via area committees	305,000
Allocate a further £157,660 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens)	173,180
Reverse the planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2023/24 and last year (2022/23)	13,750
Provide funding for disabled education travel support	70,300
0% rise in rents in social housing managed by the Council	60,130
Create a new Big Wheelie Bin Fund to assist households who need a larger bin	6,094
Introduce a discretionary fund to allow for the increasing of lighting levels or installation of additional lighting for partially sighted residents as part of Health & Social Care budget	7,312

Introduce single free annual visitor parking permit in permit parking zones for carless households	50,000
Reverse the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Brown Bin charge increase	59,000
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Resident Parking Permits	0
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Brown Bin service	0
A 1-year trial of the Council taking responsibility for grass cutting in (i) the Barnes Park Extension between Springwell Road and Tay Road and (ii) the Sandhills nature reserve on the basis of cutting the grass in these locations 3 times a year	5,300
TOTAL	1,921,066

Amendment 2 – Capital Budget 2023/24 Capital Budget Savings Proposals	£
CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of £12,248,000 from this budget	-12,248,000
TOTAL	12,248,000

2023/24 Capital Budget Priority Investments	£
<p>Establish a working group to put together a 5-year Leisure Investment Strategy for Sunderland and Washington, with a budget to make improvements to public leisure space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an annual fund for maintenance and improvement of smaller suburban parks (£200,000 per year for 5 years) • Development of fields bordered by (1) Keswick Avenue and Dene Lane, (2), Former Council playing field behind Morrisons with sensitive planting of native trees , shrubs and grasses to encourage wildlife including resident and migratory birds, mammals. reptiles, butterflies and other insects, in line with net zero strategy and providing a valuable resource for exercise and relaxation to residents of all ages and in line with DDA • Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford/Pennywell area • Enhancing the existing Cycle Way investment scheme – including breaking ground on a keynote route linking the Riverside development with a Hylton Road cycleway to Pennywell Industrial Estate • Project to enable better running/walking routes in Sunderland • Establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton, and Washington • Acquiring and/or developing a city centre skatepark and investigating providing further skatepark facilities at sites around the City Council area • Budget for strategic working group (£30,000) 	10,090,000
Establishment of a working group and feasibility study to be carried out on derelict and problem garages in residential areas, including in Moorside	30,000
Feasibility of Council supporting supermarket for city centre (following loss of Tesco from Bridges) and supporting similar local supermarket in Hendon	600,000

Propose acquiring and redeveloping vacant Wear Tavern building in Pallion for housing and commercial use	778,000
Propose acquiring Burn Park Methodist Church for community use	150,000
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill	600,000
TOTAL reallocated from CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments	12,248,000

The proposed Amendment to the Revenue and Capital Budgets from the Liberal Democrats Group in Opposition was put to the vote with 26 Members voting in favour:-

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

43 Members voting against:-

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

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 40 Members voting in favour:-

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

29 Members voting against: -

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

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly it was: -

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

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

