

CABINET MEETING – 15 JUNE 2021
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

MINUTES, PART I

Author(s):

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

Presents the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 March 2021, Part I.

Action Required:

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.

At a Meeting of the **CABINET** held remotely using **Microsoft Teams** and **livestreamed on YouTube** on **TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:-

Councillor G. Miller in the Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Chequer, Farthing, Stewart and Williams

Also present:-

Councillors Johnston and Rowntree

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 February 2021, Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2021, Part I, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests detailed and withdrew from the remote meeting during consideration of the reports:-

Items 11 and 22 – Funding and
Delivery of Vaux Housing
Development

Councillors G. Miller and P. Stewart
together with Patrick Melia, Chief
Executive - Directors on Siglion LLP

Item 12 – Funding and Delivery of
Riverside Sunderland Works

Item 23 - Riverside Sunderland -
Approval of proposals for the
detailed design, construction and
subsequent letting of a
new development on the former Vaux
site

Item 14 - School Admissions
Arrangements for the 2022-2023
Academic Year

Councillor Stewart – Chair of
Governors of Willowfield Primary
School
Councillor Atkinson – Governor at
Richard Avenue Primary School

In view of the interests declared and the requirement for Members to withdraw from the meeting, it was agreed to vary the order of business on the agenda to move items in the order of 14, 11 and 12 to the end of Part I of the agenda.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence submitted to the meeting.

Performance Report – Quarter 3 2020/21

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide performance information in relation to the Quarter 3 of 2020/21.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart highlighted that the report set out the progress made during the third quarter of 2020/21 against a City Plan that spanned an eleven-year period through to 2030. He outlined that the report had been aligned to the three key themes of the City Plan (*Dynamic City*, *Healthy City* and *Vibrant City*) as well as including additional Council indicators for organisational health.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the performance information in relation to Quarter 3 performance of 2020/21 be accepted and noted.

Leechmere Centre – Roof Renewal

The Executive Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to procure and award a contract for roof renewal works at Leechmere Centre.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Stewart reported that the Leechmere Centre was a significant Council owned asset that was currently occupied by Sunderland Care and Support and used to support and deliver key social and healthcare services. He advised that there had been numerous incidents of reactive repairs to the roof of the main asset block within the last 12-24 months and leaks had caused damage to internal finishes.

Cabinet Members were advised that the existing built-up bituminous felt roof covering was known to be more than 20 years old and as such nearing the end of life cycle expectancy. Complete renewal of the roof covering was now considered essential within the next twelve months to provide a long term remedial solution. The estimated contract value for the roof renewal works was £280,000 this would be funded from current Planned Property Capital Maintenance budgets.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the procurement and award of a contract for roof renewal works at Leechmere Centre with an estimated contract value of £280,000 be approved.

Update to Constitution – Council Procedure Rules

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to present proposals to amend the Council Procedure Rules.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair highlighted that the report presented proposals for an updated set of Council Procedure Rules which were designed to facilitate the efficient conduct of Council business, without compromising the democratic process. He drew Cabinet Members' attention to Section 4 of the report, which detailed the main changes that were proposed.

He requested that it be recommended to Council to approve the amendments proposed to the Council Procedure Rules, to take effect immediately after the meeting at which they are approved.

Councillor Williams advised that the proposals presented a sensible solution as of late, the Council meetings had become prolonged and this would ensure that the business of the meetings was conducted more efficiently.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to:

- (i) amend the Council Procedure Rules as set out in the report, to take effect immediately following the Council meeting at which their amendment is approved, and
- (ii) authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to make the associated amendments to the Constitution, including any amendments that may be required to ensure consistency between the updated Council Procedure Rules and the remainder of the Constitution.

Highway Maintenance (Including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme 2021-2022

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to the planned Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2021-2022 and to approve amendments (additions/deferrals) to the 2020-2021 Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair highlighted that the City's highway network and associated infrastructure was by far the most valuable asset managed and maintained by the Council with an estimated 'As New' replacement value of approximately £2.2 billion. He reported that its contribution to economic development and growth, as well as bringing important social benefits, could not be overstated. He advised that providing access to employment, social, health and education services made a well-maintained highway network crucial in growing a vibrant economy and giving its residents a sense of place. It was from within this context that the 2021-2022 delivery programme had been developed.

Cabinet Members were advised that at its meeting on 9 February 2021, Cabinet recommended to Council the approval of the 2021-2022 Capital Programme. The proposed capital allocations for the Highway Maintenance, Bridge Maintenance and Integrated Transport programmes for 2021-2022 were contained within the Cabinet report. Council subsequently approved the programme at its March Budget meeting.

The Chair reported that a schedule of streets and bridges had been prepared which would form the basis of the forthcoming programme and these were set out in appendices 1 to 5 of the report.

Cabinet Members were advised that it should be noted that Programme delivery was dependent upon:

- the need for meaningful statutory and public consultations particularly in relation to the Integrated Transport Programme;
- availability of design and construction resources;
- favourable weather conditions;
- Statutory Undertakers (SUs) and the level of planned activity they have scheduled in each of the programmed streets. Officers within Infrastructure Planning and Transportation continued to have regular dialogue with the SU representatives to ensure co-ordination of all works and to mitigate the risk of any conflicts.

The Chair reported that the programmes of work would be funded from government grants and prudential borrowing as detailed in Appendix 7 of the report. He added that those locations identified in appendices 1 to 5 were deemed to be optimal for the Council and he therefore requested that Cabinet followed the recommendation set out.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-

- (i) the schemes to be delivered that are funded from the 2021-2022 Highway Maintenance Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 1;
- (ii) the schemes to be delivered that are funded from the 2021-2022 Bridge Maintenance Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 3;
- (iii) the schemes to be delivered that are funded from the 2021-2022 Integrated Transport Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 5;
- (iv) the amendments to the schemes to be delivered that are funded from 2020-2021 Highway Maintenance Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 2;
- (v) the amendments to the schemes to be delivered that are funded from 2020-2021 Bridge Maintenance Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 4;
- (vi) the amendments to the schemes to be delivered that are funded from 2020-2021 Integrated Transport Capital Programme allocation as set out in Appendix 6; and
- (vii) the inclusion of the funding for this programme and the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.

City Centre: Future High Street Fund Programme

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to the delivery of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Atkinson was delighted to report that the City Council had recently been awarded £25 million from the Future High Street Fund. She highlighted that with a number of City Council projects, along with those being delivered by partners, now completed and others underway, which included the Beam, City Hall, Keel Square hotel, Mackies Corner and the Auditorium, the City Centre was undergoing positive change and there was a renewed interest from investors.

Cabinet Members were advised that the development to date had been well received and both businesses and residents were keen to see it continue. The £25 million FHSF grant would ensure that investment in the city centre continued at pace and complemented existing planned activity. The total FHSF Programme budget was £43.968 million. This was made up of £18.058 million from the Council's approved capital programme, £790,725 of private funding and £120,000 of other public funding.

Councillor Atkinson reported that the FHSF Programme would deliver five key projects, namely:

- The redevelopment of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre site;
- The development of the Culture House on Keel Square;
- The fit out of 2 commercial units on the ground floor of Keel Square Hotel;
- Improved pedestrian crossing facilities on St Mary's Boulevard; and
- The restoration and conversion of the Elephant Tea Rooms building on High Street West/Fawcett Street.

Councillor Atkinson advised that the Future High Street Fund Programme also complemented the redevelopment of Sunderland Railway Station and funding towards the scheme was already allocated in the approved capital programme. She explained that as part of the development of the south entrance of the Railway Station there was a need to accelerate detailed design and enabling works to ensure works could start on site in the summer.

Cabinet Members were advised that the value of these advanced design and enabling works was £450,000 which would be met by the Council, but this would then reduce the overall contract price under the main contract for the project. A further report will be brought to Cabinet in June regarding the full delivery stage of the project.

Councillor Farthing commended the proposals for the developments and looked forward to the renaissance of the city centre and Sunderland's return to being a place of destination especially with the new links across the Wear. She commented that she was proud to be part of a Cabinet that was bringing all these exciting developments to fruition to enrich the city for its residents.

Councillor Williams agreed that this was an exciting opportunity for the city and she applauded Cabinet and the officers involved in bringing these plans to fruition. She commented that the delivery of these projects on-site would ensure that they were future-proofed as they were about changing the offer and keeping up to date with the expectations and aspirations of businesses and residents. She referred to the private funding investment of £790,725 which clearly demonstrated the growing confidence of investors in the city. She congratulated Councillor Atkinson, the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the team of officers developing the scheme.

Councillor Atkinson reported that she along with her Deputy Portfolio Holder, Councillor Johnston, were unapologetic about their ambitions for the city and now seeing all these plans coming to fruition at pace. She thanked Councillors and officers for working so well together to ensure delivery of proposals that residents would be proud of and to give a reason to stay, live and work in the city.

The Chair commended the proposals brought forward by Councillors Atkinson and Johnston and the team of officers in City Development. He reported that this proposal along with developments proposed in the City Plan, including the Spire Bridge, the SSTC3 together with the works along St. Mary's Way and Vaux, were all part of the Council's strategic plan to transform Sunderland into an extraordinary place to live, work or play.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Future High Street Fund Programme ('the Programme') and receipt of £25,000,000 from the Ministry of Homes, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) be approved;
- (ii) the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to enter into a Funding Agreement with associated conditions from MHCLG to enable delivery of the Programme;
- (iii) the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to procure and appoint the necessary consultants and contractors to deliver the individual projects within the Programme;
- (iv) the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to acquire by agreement any necessary third party land interests within the area edged red on the attached plan (appendix one) on such terms as considered appropriate to enable the delivery of a development scheme on the former Crowtree Leisure Centre site and the surrounding area;
- (v) the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to agree and enter into a funding agreement with Network Rail for the acceleration of enabling works in connection with the Railway Station South for an amount of up to £450,000; and
- (vi) the funding arrangements for delivery of the proposed works and the resultant variation to the Capital Programme be approved.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for the delivery of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Atkinson was delighted that the Council, in partnership with Gentoo, had been successful in its application for a Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator Project in the city.

Councillor Atkinson explained that the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator programme was a £50 million programme which was announced in July 2020 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to support social landlords to demonstrate innovative approaches to retrofitting social housing at scale.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Demonstrator competition was designed to contribute to achieving the Buildings Mission objective for homes. This set out to half the total use of energy compared to today's standards for new build; through halving the cost of renovating existing buildings to a similar standard as new buildings. It also aimed to increase quality and safety as well as to support green jobs as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.

Councillor Atkinson reported that the Council, as lead applicant for the funding application, working closely with Gentoo, was successful with its consortium proposal and had secured £905,959 grant support for a Demonstrator project in Fatfield in Washington. She advised that the grant from BEIS was matched by £734,994 from Gentoo.

Councillor Atkinson explained that the Project would focus on 46 properties owned by Gentoo. She advised that it would deliver a fabric first low carbon scheme, to decentralise, digitalise and decarbonise homes, whilst making them warmer, more comfortable, more energy efficient and healthier places to live. It would achieve significant reduction in energy demand by applying a 'whole house' retrofit approach with innovative technology.

Cabinet Members were advised that a wide range of measures would be considered as part of the whole house approach, including a range of insulation and ventilation measures, solar PV and battery storage, and smart technology. A funding and delivery agreement would be developed between the Council and Gentoo, the main delivery partner for the scheme. The agreement would set out the terms and conditions of the BEIS funding including financial management arrangements, risk and quality assurance, key milestones, and monthly performance monitoring and evaluation obligations. All capital costs associated with the Demonstrator project would be met by BEIS grant support or from the £734,994 match funding provided by Gentoo.

Councillor Atkinson reported that the Demonstrator project would deliver an exemplar low carbon project in Washington. She advised that it would support delivery of the city-wide Low Carbon Framework and target for the city as a whole to become carbon neutral by 2040. She added that it would contribute directly to one of the Low Carbon Framework's seven strategic priorities, while delivering a demonstrator project that could be replicated locally and nationally.

Cabinet Members were advised that this Project was an early reflection of the partnership approach which was considered essential to Sunderland being able to deliver against its ambition to become carbon neutral.

Councillor Farthing commended the Project and reported that there was a district heating scheme in her Ward and she was very much aware that these schemes were outdated and should have been replaced some years ago. She noted that in her Ward, Gentoo were undertaking some individual boiler replacements in properties and these would be convertible to using hydrogen in the future which would assist towards achieving the carbon neutral targets. She added that this project for Fatfield was very exciting and hoped that this would become a platform for future developments across Sunderland.

The Chair agreed that this was a transformative move which would link into the Council's pathway to be cleaner and greener under its ambition to be carbon neutral and was the start of the development of more modern, low carbon homes.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the delivery of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator ('the Project') and receipt of £905,959 from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS);
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, to agree and enter into a Funding Agreement with Gentoo Group Ltd ('Gentoo') in respect of the BEIS funding and Gentoo's role as the main delivery partner in the Project; and
- (iii) Approve the funding arrangements for delivery of the Project and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.

Disposal of the freehold interest in the Sunderland Civic Centre site

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide a progress update and seek approval for the disposal of the freehold interest in the Sunderland Civic Centre site (the Property) for proposed residential development.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Atkinson highlighted that the Sunderland Civic Centre site, edged black on the plan in Appendix A, comprised 3.7 hectares of land including the Civic Centre buildings, multi-storey car park and the Cowan Terrace surface car park. She reported that following the relocation of Council services to City Hall the Property would become surplus to requirements and its timely disposal and redevelopment was essential to minimise the Council's risk and ongoing maintenance costs.

Councillor Atkinson advised that the re-purposing of the site would be challenging, due to the condition of the existing buildings and the physical site constraints. She explained that the comprehensive redevelopment of the site for residential use was the most viable alternative use and would facilitate the strategic aims of the City Plan to provide more and better housing for Sunderland residents.

Cabinet Members were advised that following a competitive bidding process, Vistry Partnerships Ltd had been identified as the preferred bidder for the Property, having submitted the highest purchase price and proposals which met the requirements of the site development brief and emerging Allocations and Designations Plan. It was explained that Vistry's proposal included 275 new homes (166 houses and 109 apartments) including a mix of open market and affordable tenures, attractive areas of formal and informal amenity space; and pedestrian and multi-user links to surrounding areas.

Councillor Atkinson reported that in order to maximise its financial receipt and ensure the disposal of the Property and its subsequent redevelopment could commence at the earliest opportunity, the Council might need to fund and / or carry out early site enabling works. She advised that the cost of these works would be funded from the capital receipt generated from the disposal of the property.

Cabinet Members were assured that as part of the conditions of the proposed sale, Vistry would be obligated to secure planning consent and commence demolition and redevelopment in accordance with agreed milestones. The Council would seek to secure a call option which would allow it to re-acquire all or part of the Property should those milestones not be met.

Councillor Atkinson commented that this was an exciting project and demonstrated that the Council was not just focussing on redeveloping the riverside area of the city but tackling the whole city centre at pace. She added that this would create more and better housing and create a new community of a mix of tenures in a lovely part of the city. She commended the report.

Councillor Farthing congratulated the Portfolio Holder and officers for the vision for the city centre and that it was not just a plan but becoming a reality. She added that it was exciting to be part of this meeting making history with this and the other exciting proposals on the agenda.

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Leader of the Council, to:-

- (i) dispose of the freehold interest in the Property (as identified edged black on the plan attached as Appendix A) to Vistry Partnerships Ltd (Vistry) or such other Vistry group company (as appropriate), for a price which represents the best consideration reasonably obtainable and on detailed terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development, subject to the requirements of Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to any open space contained within the Property; and

- (ii) where necessary enter into funding arrangements with Vistry in connection with, or procure and appoint contractors and consultants to carry out (as the case may be) site enabling and/or preparation works (as described in the report) as part of the terms of the proposed land sale in order to support the delivery of the proposed development.

Housing Delivery and Investment Plan Annual Review

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an annual review update on the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Atkinson reported that she was delighted to present this report on the annual review of the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan. She reminded Cabinet Members that in February 2020, Cabinet had approved the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan (HDIP). She explained that this was a 5-year plan, with £59 million to invest and deliver new social housing for the Council in its new role as a Registered Provider to deliver 574 new homes.

Cabinet Members were advised that the approved 5-year outputs were split into three delivery streams of:

- Delivering more bungalows;
- Bringing long term empty properties back into use; and
- Providing more supported accommodation

Councillor Atkinson reported that despite a difficult year, positive progress had been made and the momentum was now building. She advised that 21% of the programme had already been delivered or planned. She added that the Annual Report outlined all the fantastic projects that had been delivered this year and summarised that some these highlights included achieving the:-

- first Council tenant for 20 years;
- first Council new build housing development for 40 years;
- completion of first SME partnership bungalow project; and
- development of the new Sunderland Standard for refurbishment of empty homes

Councillor Atkinson reported that the Council was now working with Homes England also to align strategically the programme to the new national prospectus.

The Chair commended the report and referred to the fantastic reports in the media of happy tenants being given the keys to their new homes. He commented that this was just the start of the provision of housing, and in particular social housing with the Council becoming a landlord again. He added that the Council taking ownership of those awkward areas, that the private sector did not want to be engaged in due to costs and lack of potential profits, enabled those areas to be developed.

Councillor Farthing reported that this must be heart-warming for the Chair as this was something that he had striven for when he was the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services. She commended the progress that had been in what had been a very difficult year for the rental sector during the pandemic. She added that the fact that the Council was now in a position to provide rental homes provided a safety valve for the city and it was a fantastic achievement. She congratulated the Housing Team and the Portfolio Holder on this accomplishment.

Councillor Stewart reported that this was another excellent project being highlighted on this agenda and commented that if this agenda was a book, it would be the good read of the year. He added that this clearly demonstrated the drive and ambition of the Council to move the city forward. He advised that it was also important to note that the Council had been listening to what residents wanted and was working with them. He was pleased that the Leadership, the Portfolio Holder and her team had taken on board the need for the Council to become proactive in housing by becoming a social landlord. He congratulated them for taking that vision forward and delivering upon the promises made in Councillor Atkinson's Motion to Council when she first became a Cabinet Member. He added that this vision also linked directly into the Council's community wealth aspirations by using local companies employing local people. He was proud to be part of the Cabinet bringing this project forward.

Councillor Atkinson was pleased that 21% of the five year plan had been delivered in one year from a standing start. She commended her Deputy Cabinet Member and the Housing Team for their support, integrity, ambition and drive to develop social housing to provide safe and secure tenancies for residents and their children. She also commented on the greatly improved standard of social housing being provided with the people of Sunderland at its heart and how the Council had been recognised nationally for its passion.

The Chair was delighted that this Council had delivered these projects outperforming what residents had seen over the past decades. He was privileged to have a group of supportive Cabinet Members that had delivered on their responsibilities. He congratulated Councillors Atkinson and Johnston for their work with the Housing Team on this project. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for sharing the strategic vision which resulted in the development of the City Plan in 2018 and the ambition for continuous improvement.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan Annual Review be approved; and
- (ii) the home ownership models within the Homes England Affordable Homes Programme be explored and any suitable future home ownership projects be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.

Review of City-Wide Public Spaces Protection Order to include the outcome of Consultation and Consideration of Fee Levels

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the outcome of the consultation findings for the review of restrictions and fine levels in the Sunderland City Wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and seek agreement for the implementation of this new order for 3 years.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair highlighted that this report responded to the concerns of residents and partners in relation to a series of unwanted behaviours which had a negative impact on the lives of residents and the City in general. He reported that this would build on previous Public Space Protection Orders and included additional matters of concern which had become more prominent since those last orders were made.

The Chair was pleased to draw the attention of Cabinet Members to the fact that the proposed order clearly responded to the wide consultation outcomes and requested Members to note those areas where further work would be completed to define the areas of the City where these specific measures should apply.

Cabinet Members were advised that the PSPO affected all residents and this was generally positive in making the City a better place to live. For those residents who choose to behave in an anti-social manner, approval was sought to increase the penalty to £100 which was the maximum allowable under legislation and wholly avoidable by not behaving in an anti-social manner. Additional resource to support enforcement was already in place, and together with the police, the Council would ensure that the appropriate enforcement action was taken wherever possible.

Councillor Farthing noted that the majority of respondents agreed that waste should be presented in the designed receptacle, a wheeled bin. However, she was concerned that this, the third anniversary of that requirement, would marginalise certain residents that did not have a defensible space to store their bins. She requested that officers undertake a review across the city to ensure that residents were not being marginalised and that the policy was poverty proofed.

Councillor Williams welcomed the proposals in the report. She reported that as a resident of Washington, she particularly welcomed the measures in place to deal with shopping trolley issues in the immediate vicinity of shopping centres. She referred to the responses in relation to dog control measures and could not comprehend why so many residents, namely 1, 241, were against excluding dogs from play areas, sports pitches and resorts areas and that 273 people did not agree with the fine for not carrying a dog bag to clear up after dog fouling. In addition, in relation to Measure 10 - Public Urination and Defecation, which would be to not allow any person to urinate or defecate in any place that was not a toilet, she was astounded that 286 people did not agree to that measure. Turning to the measure to not allow any person(s) to ride a motorcycle or quad bike in an open public place including bridle ways and footpaths, she welcomed this proposal as this was a blight for many residents. She hoped that the enforcement team was in place to make some real differences for residents and make those offenders responsible for their actions.

Councillor Stewart reported that these proposals came about through working with communities through the 'Let's Talk' initiative. He advised that over half of the population of the city took part and anti-social behaviour issues were being raised frequently. He commented that as a result of raising the issues, the Council consulted residents on which issues and measures they wanted the Council to include and to be able to act upon. He referred to the details raised by Councillor Williams and highlighted that the vast majority of residents were in support of the measures. He reminded Members that these measures would ensure that Sunderland would be a place that residents would be proud to live in and to protect their quality of life. He also reported that 18 additional enforcement officers were employed since 2018 and would have the ability to take action in line with this PSPO.

The Chair reported that the Council was a listening Council, talking to and working with/for residents. He advised that included meaningful consultation. In relation to the PSPO, he added that 93% of respondents wanted the changes that were included in the proposed PSPO put in place. He was pleased with the consultation outcomes that the PSPO would deliver what the residents wanted with higher penalties for those who breached the Order.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposed restrictions set out in paragraph 8 of the report and the making of a new 3-year City Wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the form, or substantially in the form, set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be endorsed;
- (ii) the increase in the fee level for Fixed Penalty Notices as set out in paragraph 6 of the report be approved; and
- (iii) the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Leader of the Council as portfolio holder and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to determine the final form of the PSPO and to take all steps in connection with the making of the PSPO.

Sunderland Healthy City Plan

The Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board's revised Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (the revised document being referred to as the 'Healthy City Plan') and sought the endorsement of the Health and Wellbeing Board's decision to approve the Healthy City Plan, which sought to address the current health challenges within the city and to recognise the role that everyone could play in improving health.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Chequer reported that the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board (“the Board”) had a statutory function to prepare a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the current Sunderland Strategy had been in place since 2013. She advised that the Healthy City Plan being presented was the Board’s refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and was informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. She explained that it had been developed in partnership with Health and Wellbeing Board members and extended partners and was aligned with the City Plan.

Cabinet Members were advised that the plan focused on a life course approach and applied the six policy objectives set out by Professor Michael Marmot; namely:-

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

Councillor Chequer reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, work to finalise the Healthy City Plan had been delayed. She explained that this meant the plan had been aligned with the Covid-19 Health Inequalities Strategy and acknowledged the current and ongoing impacts of the pandemic. She highlighted that the plan was vital in terms of identifying and addressing the enduring health and wellbeing needs that had been exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic and would inform work to narrow inequalities gaps.

Cabinet Members were advised that the plan sets out the Board’s:-

- Priorities for action
- Vision for health and wellbeing
- Understanding of what makes us healthy and happy
- Current position
- Approach to delivering the plan
- Governance for the delivery of the plan
- Performance framework

Councillor Chequer reported that the plan was presented to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee before approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board. She added that endorsement of the Plan by Cabinet would demonstrate the whole Council commitment to health and wellbeing.

Councillor Farthing reported that as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, she was delighted with this new Plan and reported that it made an excellent tribute to work of the former Healthy City Portfolio Holder, Councillor Dr Geoffrey Walker. He commended the new format of the Plan and believed that the governance arrangements would be much improved. She looked forward to working with colleagues using this Plan and developing the Healthy City strategy.

The Chair highlighted that this verified why it was beneficial to have Deputy Cabinet Members. He explained that Councillor Chequer had been the Deputy Cabinet Member for Healthy City and following the sad loss of their colleague, Dr Walker, she had made the seamless transition to Portfolio Holder to continue this vital work for the city. He advised that Cabinet endorsing this Plan demonstrated the commitment of the Council to the health and wellbeing of the residents of the city.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the Healthy City Plan, following approval of the plan by the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board, be endorsed and its publication be approved.

Corporate Parenting Review

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on the outcome of an external review into the Council's corporate parenting arrangements and to propose a number of changes to the Council's approach.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Farthing highlighted that corporate parenting was the term used to describe the overarching responsibilities the Council held for cared for and care experienced children. She reported that these responsibilities were and should be expressed both strategically and operationally and should also be clear in the way that the Corporate Parenting Board operated. She explained that the Board was a committee of the Council and the effectiveness of that Board was used as the litmus test of the corporate parenting commitment, from Officers, Elected Members and partners. She advised that the Board's leadership was tested as part of the full inspection of Children's Services and as a result informed the overall graded judgement Ofsted made of leadership and management.

Cabinet Members were advised that Elected Members, Officers of the Council and Together for Children had a mandated responsibility to ensure that cared for children's education, welfare and best interests were paramount. Corporate Parents should treat every child and young person who was cared for as if they were their own (the 'would it be good enough for my child' test) and put their needs at the top of the corporate agenda.

Councillor Farthing reported that recognising the importance of having a high functioning Board, that could clearly evidence this ambition, the Chief Executive of the Council and the TfC Board Chair agreed to initiate an independent review of the Board by Karen Simmons, who was a former Assistant Director for Safeguarding at Newcastle City Council's Children's Services Department. She advised that Ms Simmons had extensive experience of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting and was currently working for Together for Children as the Fostering Panel Independent Chair.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to

- (i) revise the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board as set out in section 6 of the report, with effect from Annual Council 2021; and
- (ii) subject to (i) above, note and endorse the recommendations of the external review as set out in section 5 of the Report of K Simmons, attached as an Appendix to the report.

At this juncture, Councillor Stewart withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of the Part I meeting in view of his declarations of interest and Councillor Atkinson withdrew from the meeting for the following report only.

School Admissions Arrangements for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2022-23 and to describe proposed amendments to published admission numbers for the academic year 2021-22, where it was necessary to provide additional places.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Farthing highlighted that the report presented today outlined the Council's proposed school admission arrangements for the 2022/2023 academic year. She explained that the arrangements outlined within the report applied only to maintained schools, with Voluntary Aided, Free Schools and Academies responsible for the establishment of their own arrangements.

Councillor Farthing reported that the Council had proposed changes to the admission arrangements for local authority-maintained schools. She advised that they included the inclusion of a sibling link criteria for parents applying for places at local authority maintained junior schools. She added that also from 2022, any applicant who had applied for a school place within the preference period but who had not secured one of the schools identified within their application would be offered a place at the nearest school with remaining places. She assured that this did not remove any parent or carers rights to appeal to any setting that had been unable to offer a place but would ensure that all children had an offer of an appropriate school place within the admissions process.

Cabinet Members were advised that it was estimated that there would be a surplus of reception and year 7 places across most of the school planning areas in the city in September 2021. Some schools were projected to be oversubscribed but sufficient places existed to offer any parent who had not secured their preferred school place a reasonable local alternative.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

13. RESOLVED that for the 2022-2023 academic year approval be given to:-

- (i) the admissions policy and procedures associated with the co-ordinated scheme of admissions;
- (ii) the criteria that will be applied for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools where over-subscription occurs; and
- (iii) the published admission numbers (PANs).

At this juncture, the Chair, Councillor Miller and Patrick Melia, Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of the Part I meeting in view of their declarations of interest. Councillor Farthing took the Chair for of the remainder of Part I.

Councillor Atkinson was readmitted to the meeting.

Funding and Delivery of Vaux Housing Development

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to the proposed delivery of the Vaux Housing scheme, including the proposal to enter into a Development Funding Agreement (DFA) with Siglion Developments LLP ("Siglion").

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Atkinson reported that in November 2019, Siglion Developments LLP had produced a masterplan for the regeneration of Riverside Sunderland and developed proposals for a first phase of housing development on the Vaux site. She advised that the Vaux Housing scheme would provide a new high quality residential offer at the heart of the city, creating an attractive new community comprising 132 innovative new homes constructed using modern methods of construction, low carbon and renewable energy solutions, and smart and digital technology in keeping with the Council's advanced manufacturing, carbon reduction and smart city ambitions.

Councillor Atkinson highlighted that the Vaux Housing scheme would be the home of the Sunderland Future Living Expo in 2023 which would showcase local skills, talent and housing innovation.

Cabinet Members were advised that the delivery of the Vaux Housing scheme would support the implementation of the Riverside Sunderland masterplan, and the City Plan objectives of delivering more and better housing, increasing the city centre population, and driving social and economic regeneration that would result in better outcomes for local people.

Councillor Atkinson reported that at this stage, it was proposed that the most effective delivery structure was for the scheme to be delivered by Siglion on behalf of the Council, as client and initial owner of the development. She explained that the completed properties would be available for market rent generating a long-term income stream up until an assumed sale of the properties in 2049. She added that as the Council was the initial owner of the development it would also have the flexibility to market the properties at a discount or affordable rent.

Cabinet members were advised that this approach would optimise accessibility for new residents, allow the development to mature with a robust facilities and estate management regime in place, support the growth of the city centre housing market, and deliver targeted social and economic benefits. It was therefore proposed that the Council entered into a Development Funding Agreement with Siglion to fund the capital costs through to practical completion of the works.

Councillor Atkinson commented that this scheme was fantastic news for the city, particularly the Future Living Expo which would demonstrate the new, ground-breaking modern methods of construction, and that it would be a first for the UK. She advised that this would be seen as an exemplar and was already generating interest locally, nationally and internationally. She added that this not only put Sunderland on the map, but it also demonstrated the Council's ambition and drive for improvements to enable residents to have happy, healthy lives. She thanked the team of officers for their dedication and enthusiasm in getting this scheme off the ground.

Councillor Farthing agreed that she was very proud to be part of today's Cabinet meeting with an agenda, which would be looked back at in the future, as making such historic decisions. She wished every success to the Future Living Expo and hoped that by 20223, the Covid-19 pandemic would be over as this would be a huge international festival for housing development.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

14. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposals for the delivery of the Vaux Housing scheme as described in the report ("the Scheme") be agreed;
- (ii) the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to approve and finalise, on behalf of the Council, all relevant agreements required for the delivery of the Scheme up to practical completion, including (without limitation) the DFA with Siglion; and
- (iii) a further report setting out options for the proposed long-term ownership and delivery model for the Scheme post practical completion be submitted to Cabinet in due course.

Funding and Delivery of Riverside Sunderland Works

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to enter into Development Funding Agreements (DFAs) with Siglion Developments LLP ("Siglion") for the delivery of the supply and fit-out of the City Hall and the delivery of Riverside Sunderland Infrastructure programme (together "the Schemes") on behalf of the Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In highlighting the report, Councillor Atkinson reminded Cabinet Members that in March 2019, the Council approved the new civic centre and public sector hub (City Hall) which included funding furniture and equipment as part of the project budget, and latterly in March 2020, approved a scheme to deliver Riverside Sunderland Infrastructure, a programme of project interventions to enable and support the delivery of the Riverside Sunderland Masterplan.

Councillor Atkinson reported that a number of projects as part of the Riverside Sunderland Masterplan were now underway, such as City Hall, or were due to commence construction in the very near future, including (subject to Cabinet's approval) but not limited to the Vaux Housing scheme, L&G's first speculative office building and Farringdon Row Multi Storey Car Park. She advised that therefore in order to facilitate these developments and others in the future, supporting site-wide infrastructure and public realm were required to be delivered by the Council.

Cabinet Members were advised that in addition to meeting the current City Hall programme and to provide a coordinated and seamless transition from the current Civic Centre site to the new City Hall, it was intended to procure furniture and equipment, where appropriate, via the City Hall building contract, of which Siglion was the employer under the building contract. This would allow the earliest possible occupation of the City Hall building.

Councillor Farthing commented that the public realm and fitting out works were the scaffolding behind all the projects taking place on the Riverside and would bring additional employment opportunities in the city. She looked forward to the move to the new City Hall later in the year. On behalf of the Cabinet, she congratulated the Portfolio Holder and the team of officers for this great achievement and the vision for the Vaux Riverside being realised.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

15. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, be authorised to approve and finalise and thereafter complete DFAs with Siglion for the delivery of the Schemes.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

16. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) G. MILLER,
Chair.

L. FARTHING,
Chair.

Prior to moving to Part II of the agenda, it was confirmed that the livestream of the meeting had ended.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

