

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 6 June 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Gofton, Kelly, G. Miller, P. Smith, Speding and H. Trueman

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 April 2012 Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence submitted to the meeting.

Report of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee, Part I

The report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 26 April 2012 Part I (copy circulated) was submitted and consideration was given thereto.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 26 April 2012 Part I be noted, and
- (ii) the new grievance procedure, proposed by the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, be approved in principle subject to further consultation regarding member involvement.

Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the Corporate Plan for 2012/13 - 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman highlighted that a further revised copy of the proposed Corporate Plan for the Council, for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 had been circulated at the meeting. He explained that this was a different plan to its predecessor, giving a succinct summary description of what the Council sought to achieve in the 3 year period and how it intended to go about doing it. He reported that it was based on a considerable amount of work involving both Officers and Members.

Cabinet Members were advised that the document set out the strategic direction of the Council based on its vision for “Sunderland to be a smart, sustainable city synonymous with the North East with a high performing and admired council”. It defined the Council’s contributions to this vision and demonstrated how it would focus resources on the key outcomes under People, Place and Economy.

Turning to section 3, the Chairman outlined that the document set out what the Council would do and who would be held responsible. He requested Cabinet Members to note that the new portfolios had been fully reflected in section 4 and these portfolio responsibilities had also been updated in section 3. This was reflected in the copy tabled at the meeting and this is the version which would be shared with the Scrutiny Committee and then full Council.

The Chairman reported that the Corporate Plan also described how the Council was changing as an organisation. That included the recent changes to Cabinet and Scrutiny and also the Sunderland Way of Working which was the Council's way of achieving better services with less money.

Finally, the attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to how the Plan set out the Council's budget at a high level under each Portfolio. They were advised that it was the basis for all the Council's other plans and formed part of the Council's Corporate Strategic Planning Framework. This framework linked the Council's aims for the city with Directorate plans, service plans and individuals' personal objectives.

Cabinet Members having been advised that the Corporate Plan would be published primarily as a very accessible website document, and that a summary version had been produced to enable this, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to:-

- (i) endorse the contents of and approve the Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15,
- (ii) delegate the final approval to the Leader and Chief Executive and authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any minor or final amendments to the Plan, and
- (ii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to approve a summary version of the Corporate Plan and to make any minor or final amendments to the summary.

Review of Committee Arrangements – Consequential Changes

The Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to address consequential changes required to reflect requirements of the Localism Act 2011 regarding overview and scrutiny which had now been brought into force, and decisions made by the Leader and the Council to make changes to Executive and Committee arrangements, and to amend the constitution accordingly.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman highlighted that this report set out the detail of changes that were needed to reflect the Localism Act, the allocation of Portfolio responsibilities, and the arrangements that would underpin delivery of strong and re-focussed Executive, Area and scrutiny arrangements, as approved at Annual Council on 16 May.

The Chairman summarised that amendments were required to the Constitution as set out in this report, to reflect:-

- the changes to support arrangements for Cabinet with the new Policy Member role,
- the introduction of a single Scrutiny Committee,
- the provisions relating to scrutiny introduced by the Localism Act 2011,
- the establishment of a Human Resources Committee made up of 12 members to exercise:-
 - the functions in relation to Chief Officer appointments set out in the Employment Procedure Rules and
 - other non-executive functions relating to human resources and pensions.

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

4. RESOLVED that it be recommended to the Council to:-

- (a) amend the Constitution as set out in this report in order to
 - reflect changes to support arrangements for Cabinet, and the number of Scrutiny Committees and to take account of provisions relating to Overview and Scrutiny introduced by the Localism Act 2011.
 - provide for a Human Resources Committee comprised of 12 members, to exercise functions in relation to appointments as provided for by the Employment Procedure Rules and non-executive functions relating to human resources and pensions that are not otherwise delegated.
- (b) appoint members to the Human Resources Committee, and;
- (c) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to make such other consequential changes that are required to the Constitution to ensure consistency with the approval of the matters set out in (a) and (b) above.

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

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

5. 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 information relating to any individual, which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) or to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4).

(Signed) P. WATSON,
Chairman.

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.

