

# ***Minutes***



## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on  
WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH, 2019 at 6.00pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor L. Scanlan) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Snowdon)

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	Miller, F.	Trueman, H.
	Ball	Gibson, P.	Miller, G.	Turner
	Blackett	Haswell	Mordey	Tye
	Cunningham	Heron	Mullen	Walker, G.
	Curran	Hodson	O'Brien	Walker, P.
	Davison	Hunt	Oliver	Watson
	Dixon, D.	Jackson	Rowntree	Williams
	Dixon, M.	Johnston	Samuels	Wilson, A.
	English	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Wilson, D.
	Essl	Lauchlan	Scullion	Wood, A.
	Farthing	Lawson	Smith, G.	Wood, K.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood. P.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Speding	
	Francis	Marshall	Taylor	
	Galbraith	McClennan	Trueman, D.	

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Minutes

48. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 10 – Motions on Notice – Parkinson's Awareness Week	Councillor Turner	Hon. Pres. of Parkinson's UK, Sunderland Branch.
Item 11 (ii) – Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc.	Councillors Fletcher and Lawson	Board Member of Sunderland Care and Support.

## **Announcements**

### **(i) Cabinet**

The Mayor informed Council that the Leader had advised that Councillor Porthouse was no longer a member of the Cabinet and that he did not propose to appoint another member to Cabinet at this time and therefore, as indicated at the Budget Council meeting, the responsibilities associated with the portfolio for Housing and Regeneration would be undertaken by Councillor Mordey and Councillor Atkinson. The Leader would set the new Cabinet structure in May, after the local elections.

### **(ii) Mordaunt Cohen**

The Mayor paid tribute to Sunderland-born Lieutenant Colonel Mordaunt Cohen, the most senior Jewish second world war veteran in the UK who had recently passed away at the age of 102. Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

### **(iii) Retirement of Councillors**

The Mayor advised that Councillors Bell, Elliott, O'Neill, Turton and Waters would be retiring from office and not standing at the next Local Government Elections. On behalf of the Council, she expressed gratitude for their past service and wished them well for the future.

## **Reception of Petitions**

No petitions were received.

## **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Beck, Blackburn, Chequer, Elliott, Howe, Leadbitter, O'Neill, P. Smith and Waller and on behalf of Aldermen Arnott, Forbes, Greenfield and Tate.

## **Written Questions under Rule 9**

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by members of the public.

## **Report of the Cabinet**

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

## 1. Members' Allowances Scheme – 2019/2020

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Law and Governance on the members' allowances scheme for the next financial year and recommended that Council approve the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Scheme for 2019/2020 that there should be no change in the allowances at this time and that the terms of the Scheme for 2019/2020 should remain the same.

## 2. Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the draft Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020 and recommended Council to approve the draft Pay Policy Statement for adoption and publication by 31 March 2019.

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

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Francis, moved a reference back on Item 1 – Members' Allowance Scheme – 2019/2020.

Upon being put to the vote, the reference back was defeated with 11 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Blackett	Haswell	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Francis	Mullen	Smith, G.	

And 47 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	McClennan	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Gibson, P.	Miller, F.	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Heron	Miller, G.	Turner
	Curran	Hunt	Mordey	Tye
	Davison	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D.	Johnston	Samuels	Walker, P.
	English	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Watson
	Essl	Lauchlan	Scullion	Williams
	Farthing	Lawson	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, A.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Speding	Wood, K.
	Galbraith	Marshall	Taylor	

The approval and adoption of the Cabinet report was then put to the vote with 47 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	McClennan	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Gibson, P.	Miller, F.	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Heron	Miller, G.	Turner
	Curran	Hunt	Mordey	Tye
	Davison	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D	Johnston	Samuels	Walker, P
	English	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Watson
	Essl	Lauchlan	Scullion	Williams
	Farthing	Lawson	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, A.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Speding	Wood, K.
	Galbraith	Marshall	Taylor	

And 11 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackett	Haswell	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Francis	Mullen	Smith, G.	

Accordingly it was:-

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

## **Written Questions under Rule 10.2**

Pursuant to Rule 10.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

## **Notices of Motion**

### **(i) International Brigade Plaque to Commemorate the Sacrifice of Sunderland Volunteers**

Councillor G. Walker, duly seconded by Councillor G. Miller, moved the following motion:-

“This Council applauds the gallant contribution made by a number of residents of Sunderland as volunteers for the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). This contribution remains a matter of great pride to a number of families in the City. We should acknowledge this considerable act of sacrifice; therefore, we call upon the Council to erect a plaque in the City which celebrates the significance of the actions of all those who took part”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried with 52 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Atkinson	Galbraith	Marshall	Speding
	Ball	Gibson, E.	McClennan	Trueman, D.
	Blackett	Gibson, P.	Miller, F.	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Heron	Miller, G.	Turner
	Curran	Haswell	Mordey	Tye
	Davison	Hunt	Oliver	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D.	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, P.
	Dixon, M.	Johnston	Samuels	Watson
	English	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Williams
	Essl	Lauchlan	Scullion	Wilson, A.
	Farthing	Lawson	Smith, G.	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon D.	Wood, K.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, P.

And 5 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Francis	Mullen	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Hodson			

Accordingly, it was:-

50. RESOLVED that:-

This Council applauds the gallant contribution made by a number of residents of Sunderland as volunteers for the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). This contribution remains a matter of great pride to a number of families in the City. We should acknowledge this considerable act of sacrifice; therefore, we call upon the Council to erect a plaque in the City which celebrates the significance of the actions of all those who took part.

## **(ii) Parkinson's Awareness Week**

Councillor Turner, duly seconded by Councillor Farthing, moved the following motion:-

"This Council notes that Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition that causes problems in the brain that manifests physical symptoms that progressively get worse over time. Parkinson's is indiscriminate and the number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the UK is about 145,000 or around 1 adult in every 350.

Though there is no cure, medication is extremely important in helping people with Parkinson's manage their symptoms and continue to lead independent lives. The result of this is that many people under 60, who have Parkinson's, have to pay multiple prescription charges due to the number of medications prescribed for the management of a wide range of symptoms.

Parkinson's awareness week begins this year on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April during which the charity, Parkinson's UK, continues its incredible work to ensure that they use the event to reach more people that are affected by the condition.

This council therefore agrees to write to secretary of state for health to request the government to announce during awareness week steps to ensure people with Parkinson's and other long-term conditions should be exempt from prescription charges wherever they live in the UK”.

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

51. RESOLVED that:-

This Council notes that Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition that causes problems in the brain that manifests physical symptoms that progressively get worse over time. Parkinson's is indiscriminate and the number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the UK is about 145,000 or around 1 adult in every 350.

Though there is no cure, medication is extremely important in helping people with Parkinson's manage their symptoms and continue to lead independent lives. The result of this is that many people under 60, who have Parkinson's, have to pay multiple prescription charges due to the number of medications prescribed for the management of a wide range of symptoms.

Parkinson's awareness week begins this year on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April during which the charity, Parkinson's UK, continues its incredible work to ensure that they use the event to reach more people that are affected by the condition.

This council therefore agrees to write to secretary of state for health to request the government to announce during awareness week steps to ensure people with Parkinson's and other long-term conditions should be exempt from prescription charges wherever they live in the UK.

### **(iii) Climate Emergency**

Councillor Blackett, duly seconded by Councillor Francis, moved the following motion:-

“In recognition of the threat posed to our environment by climate change Sunderland City Council will declare a climate emergency.

Numerous local authorities around the country have declared climate emergency and it is important for the council to show it takes the issue seriously. Recent weather and changes in ecosystems show that we are already seeing changes as a result of climate change so it is important to join other councils in giving the issue suitable attention and clearly setting out how we will meet our targets on cutting emissions”.

Councillor Hodson, duly seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

After the second paragraph insert:-



“The Council will lobby the Government to reinstate vital climate change policies such as:-

- Reinstatement of a publicly owned Green Investment Bank;
- Reinstatement of all green energy subsidies such as onshore wind turbine and biomass conversion;
- Reinstatement of the Green Homes scheme;
- Strengthen incentives to buy low or zero emissions vehicles;
- Reinstatement of the Zero Carbon Homes Plan;
- Introduce a Carbon emissions reduction target that is ambitious”

So the amended motion would read:-

“In recognition of the threat posed to our environment by climate change Sunderland City Council will declare a climate emergency. Numerous local authorities around the country have declared climate emergency and it is important for the council to show it takes the issue seriously. Recent weather and changes in ecosystems show that we are already seeing changes as a result of climate change so it is important to join other councils in giving the issue suitable attention and clearly setting out how we will meet our targets on cutting emissions.

The Council will furthermore lobby the Government to reinstate vital climate change policies such as:-

- Reinstatement of a publicly owned Green Investment Bank;
- Reinstatement of all green energy subsidies such as onshore wind turbine and biomass conversion;
- Reinstatement of the Green Homes scheme;
- Strengthen incentives to buy low or zero emissions vehicles;
- Reinstatement of the Zero Carbon Homes Plan;
- Introduce a Carbon emissions reduction target that is ambitious”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared to be carried with 36 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Galbraith	MacKnight, D.	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Haswell	Miller, F.	Tye
	Curran	Hodson	Miller, G.	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D	Hunt	Mordey	Walker, P.
	English	Jackson	O'Brien	Watson
	Essl	Johnston	Samuels	Williams
	Farthing	Kelly	Smith, G.	Wilson, A.
	Fletcher	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Foster	Lawson	Speding	Wood, A.

And 21 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Ball	Gibson, P.	Oliver	Turner
	Blackett	Heron	Rowntree	Wood, K.
	Davison	MacKnight, N.	Scaplehorn	Wood. P.
	Dixon, M.	Marshall	Scullion	
	Francis	McClennan	Snowdon, D.	
	Gibson, E.	Mullen	Trueman, D.	

Upon being put to the meeting the substantive motion was declared carried and accordingly it was: -

52. RESOLVED that:-

In recognition of the threat posed to our environment by climate change Sunderland City Council will declare a climate emergency. Numerous local authorities around the country have declared climate emergency and it is important for the council to show it takes the issue seriously. Recent weather and changes in ecosystems show that we are already seeing changes as a result of climate change so it is important to join other councils in giving the issue suitable attention and clearly setting out how we will meet our targets on cutting emissions.

The Council will furthermore lobby the Government to reinstate vital climate change policies such as:-

- Reinstatement of a publicly owned Green Investment Bank;
- Reinstatement of all green energy subsidies such as onshore wind turbine and biomass conversion;
- Reinstatement of the Green Homes scheme;
- Strengthen incentives to buy low or zero emissions vehicles;
- Reinstatement of the Zero Carbon Homes Plan;
- Introduce a Carbon emissions reduction target that is ambitious

#### **(iv) An End to Universal Credit**

Councillor N. MacKnight, duly seconded by Councillor Atkinson, moved the following motion:-

“The introduction of Universal Credit has tipped many of the poorest in our society into destitution with most claimants experiencing a minimum 5-week gap in subsistence. Charities including the Trussell Trust report that more than one fifth of referrals to its food banks are due to delays and changes in payments. Mind, the mental health charity, reports that the rate of people sanctioned under Universal Credit is nine times higher than under Job Seekers Allowance and Employment & Support Allowance.

A recent article in the British Medical Journal also highlighted that GPs are seeing an increasing number of patients with mental illnesses directly attributable to the introduction of Universal Credit. In addition, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has concluded that 1.8 million working families with children will be worse off under Universal Credit than under the current benefits system.

This Council:

Recognises and condemns the severe hardship placed on many vulnerable residents of the City of Sunderland by the implementation of the Conservative Government's flawed and unfair Universal Credit.

And therefore

- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to abandon implementation of this unjust scheme with immediate effect”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried with 50 Members voting in favour: -

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Snowdon)

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, P.	McClennan	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Haswell	Miller, F.	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Heron	Miller, G.	Turner
	Curran	Hodson	Mordey	Tye
	Davison	Hunt	O'Brien	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, P.
	English	Johnston	Samuels	Watson
	Essl	Kelly	Scaplehorn	Williams
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Scullion	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	Lawson	Smith, G.	Wood, A.
	Foster	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D	Wood, K.
	Galbraith	MacKnight, N.	Snowdon, D.E.	
	Gibson, E.	Marshall	Speding	

And 6 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackett	Francis	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Dixon, M.	Mullen		

Accordingly, it was:-

53. RESOLVED that:-

The introduction of Universal Credit has tipped many of the poorest in our society into destitution with most claimants experiencing a minimum 5-week gap in subsistence. Charities including the Trussell Trust report that more than one fifth of referrals to its food banks are due to delays and changes in payments. Mind, the mental health charity, reports that the rate of people sanctioned under Universal Credit is nine times higher than under Job Seekers Allowance and Employment & Support Allowance.

A recent article in the British Medical Journal also highlighted that GPs are seeing an increasing number of patients with mental illnesses directly attributable to the introduction of Universal Credit. In addition, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has concluded that 1.8 million working families with children will be worse off under Universal Credit than under the current benefits system.

This Council:

Recognises and condemns the severe hardship placed on many vulnerable residents of the City of Sunderland by the implementation of the Conservative Government's flawed and unfair Universal Credit.

And therefore

- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to abandon implementation of this unjust scheme with immediate effect.

#### **(v) Disclosure and Barring Service Checks**

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Mullen, moved the following motion:-

“In recognition of the role of members in public life and the importance of safeguarding, this Council agrees that the Chief Executive be requested to investigate the feasibility of the Council adopting a policy of asking members to undertake Disclosure and Barring Service checks and to submit a detailed report on the matter to a future meeting for consideration”.

Councillor Hodson advised that the proposed amendment to the motion (copy tabled) had now been withdrawn.

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

54. RESOLVED that:-

In recognition of the role of members in public life and the importance of safeguarding, this Council agrees that the Chief Executive be requested to investigate the feasibility of the Council adopting a policy of asking members to undertake Disclosure and Barring Service checks and to submit a detailed report on the matter to a future meeting for consideration.

#### **Report on Special Urgency Decisions**

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency, which advised that there were no such instances since the last report.

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

55. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments to a number of outside bodies.

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

56. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Councillor Hunt be appointed to the Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust for a three year term of office ending 28 March 2022;
- (ii) the Council's Assistant Director of Adults Social Care be appointed as an additional Director to the Boards of both SCAS and Holdco to oversee the performance of all professional and statutory duties for the duration of the secondment of the current Chief Operating Officer of SCAS to Sunderland CCG; and
- (iii) Councillor Turner be appointed to act as a trustee of the Victoria House Charity.

(Signed) L. SCANLAN,  
Mayor.

