

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 27th MARCH, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor I Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Mordey	Thompson
	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Oliver	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Gofton	Padgett	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Heron	Porthouse	Tye
	Blackburn	Howe	Price	Wakefield
	Bonallie	Jackson	Richardson	Walker
	Copeland	Kelly	Scanlan	Watson, P
	Curran	Lauchlan	Scott	Williams
	Davison	Lawson	Shattock	Wilson, A.
	Dixon	McClennan	Smith, D	Wiper
	Emerson	MacKnight	Smith, P.	Wood
	Essl	Marshall	Snowdon, D	Wright, N
	Farthing	Martin, L	Snowdon, DE	Wright, T
	Fletcher	Martin, T	Speding	
	Forbes	Miller, F	Stewart	
	Francis	Miller, G	Tate	

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 6th March 2013 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Announcements

(i) Death of Former Councillor Aileen Handy

The Mayor paid tribute to former Councillor and colleague, Aileen Handy who had recently passed away.

Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Better Health at Work Initiative – Silver Award

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Kelly informed the meeting that as part of the wider Employee Wellness Programme, Sunderland City Council had signed up to participate in the North East Better Health at Work Award. This was a regional award that recognised efforts made by employers, large and small, to improve the health & wellbeing of their workforces.

The Council had been successful in achieving the Silver Award due to the fantastic number of initiatives and campaigns it had completed over the last year.

Councillor Kelly offered his congratulations to all involved in securing the award.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the under - mentioned petition, submitted by the Councillor named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme:-

Councillor Francis – Petition Regarding Road Safety Outside Seaburn Dene Primary School.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Ellis, Errington, Farr, Foster, Maddison, Scaplehorn, Smiles, Turton, Waller, S. Watson and D.Wilson.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement 2013-2014

That they had given consideration to a report of the Human Resources Committee on an update and a proposal to publish the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2013-2014 in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2013-2014 and its subsequent publication on the Council's website by 31 March 2013.

2. Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework : Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options

That they had given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy circulated) on the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options which set out the overarching strategic planning framework for the development of the city for the next 20 years and drew from other strategies of the City Council (such as the Sunderland Strategy and Economic Masterplan) and those of other organisations.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- a) Approve the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal Report) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation.
- b) Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any required amendments to the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment Reports) as necessary prior to its publication for public consultation.

They also referred the matter to the Scrutiny Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for advice and consideration. The Committees commented as follows:-

The Scrutiny Committee supported the Cabinet recommendation to recommend the Council to approve the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal Report) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation and to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any required amendments to the Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment Reports) as necessary prior to its publication. Members also welcomed the opportunity to comment on the results of the consultation exercise as part of and following the public consultation process.

The Planning and Highways Committee noted the report and supported the Cabinet's recommendations to Council and also welcomed the opportunity to comment on the results of the consultation exercise as part of and following the public consultation process.

3. The Transition from Shadow to Full Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Health Housing and Adults Services on the steps necessary to effect the transition of the Sunderland Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board from

Shadow status, by establishing the Board as a Council Committee and to ask Cabinet to endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) establish the Health and Wellbeing Board as a Council Committee;
- (ii) approve the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (iii) approve the Health and Wellbeing Board Procedure Rules;
- (iv) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to amend the constitution to provide for the proposed delegations to the Director of Public Health, and
- (v) endorse the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

as set out in the report

Upon the report of the Cabinet being put to the meeting, it was: -

RESOLVED that the views of the Scrutiny and Planning and Highways Committees be noted and that the report of Cabinet be approved and adopted.

The Standards Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Amendment of Members' Code of Conduct / Recording of Gifts and Hospitality

That they had given consideration to a report by the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and the Head of Law and Governance (copy circulated) outlining proposed changes to the Members' Code of Conduct in relation to the recording of gifts and hospitality and to clarify the reference in the Code to "co-opted members".

The Standards Committee accordingly recommended Council to:-

- i) amend the Member's Code of Conduct as set out in the Appendix to the report in order to include a requirement, to take effect from the date of amendment, for members and co-opted members to register in the Council's Register of Members' Interests, any offer of gift or hospitality with an estimated value of £50 and over and to clarify that the reference in the Code to Co-opted members is to members who are not elected members but are members of a committee or sub committee with a right to vote and;
- ii) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to publicise the amendment to the Code of Conduct on the Council's website.

Upon the report being put to the meeting, it was: -

RESOLVED that the report of the Standards Committee be approved and adopted.

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the under mentioned report on action taken in relation to the following petition which had been presented to Council.

- (i) **Petition by residents of Brackley and Shalstone, Sulgrave, Washington to request closure of a footpath between Brackley, Shalstone, Trafalgar Road and Pensher View, Sulgrave. The petitioners allege that the footpath gives rise to crime and safety concerns – Presented by Councillor Walker on 26 September, 2012**

The petitioners' request that the footpath, between Brackley, Shalstone, Trafalgar Road and Pensher View be closed could not be promoted due to the expressed level of objection to closure/gating of the footpath and Government Legislation not being met; therefore, the footpath would remain open and available for public use. However, it was proposed the lead petitioners' concerns were addressed by way of PACT meetings, (Partners and Communities Together). The PACT meetings would aim to reduce levels of crime and disorder in and around Shalstone, Brackley, Pensher View and Trafalgar Road, Washington.

Councillor Walker and the lead petitioner had been notified accordingly.

Notices of Motion

(i) Notice of Motion – Housing Benefit and Austerity Measures

The Leader of the Council seconded by Councillor H. Trueman, moved a motion in relation to Housing Benefit and Austerity Measures.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried with 55 Members voting in favour, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor I. Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Mordey	Tate
	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Padgett	Thompson
	Ball	Gofton	Porthouse	Trueman, D
	Bell	Heron	Price	Trueman, H
	Blackburn	Jackson	Richardson	Tye
	Bonallie	Kelly	Scanlan	Wakefield
	Copeland	Lauchlan	Scott	Walker
	Curran	Lawson	Shattock	Watson, P
	Davison	McClennan	Smith, D	Williams
	Dixon	MacKnight	Smith, P	Wilson, A.
	Emerson	Marshall	Snowdon, D	Wright, N
	Essl	Martin, T	Snowdon, DE	Wright, T
	Farthing	Miller, F	Speding	
	Fletcher	Miller, G	Stewart	

7 members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Forbes	Howe	Oliver	Wood
	Francis	Martin, L	Wiper	

and no members abstaining.

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED that this Council :-

Asks the Government's to re-examine the measures it is putting in place to cut housing benefit from some of the City of Sunderland's most vulnerable residents on the grounds that their social housing has a spare bedroom.

Believes it to be an unworkable policy given that if people moved house it would not save any money.

Notes that according to the Government's own impact assessment, two thirds of the households affected have a disabled person.

Calls on the Government to drop this policy along with the other unfair austerity measures they have so brutally imposed upon the most vulnerable and think again.

(ii) Notice of Motion – Government Expenditure and the Financial Deficit

Councillor Wood seconded by Councillor Oliver moved the following motion in relation to Government expenditure and the financial deficit:-

“This Council, noting the previous (Labour) government left office having proposed cuts in public spending totalling 20% to deal with the financial deficit it had incurred during its time in office; acknowledges the necessity

to reduce government expenditure and looks forward to the deficit being eliminated at the earliest possible opportunity.”

Councillor Speding, seconded by Councillor G. Miller moved the following amendment:-

After ‘office’ insert **‘with the economy in steady growth and’**

After ‘proposed’ insert **‘manageable’**

After ‘spending’ delete **‘totalling 20%’**

After ‘deficit’ delete **‘it had’** and replace with **‘that was’**

After ‘incurred’ delete **‘during its time in office’** and replace with **‘due to the World economic crisis’**

After ‘expenditure’ insert **‘fairly’**

Delete **‘looks forward to the deficit being eliminated at the earliest possible opportunity’** and replace with **‘is dismayed at this government’s inability to eliminate the deficit within their promised timescale of 2015’.**

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried with 54 members voting in favour viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor I. Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Morley	Tate
	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Padgett	Thompson
	Ball	Gofton	Porthouse	Trueman, D
	Bell	Heron	Price	Trueman, H
	Blackburn	Jackson	Richardson	Tye
	Bonallie	Kelly	Scanlan	Walker
	Copeland	Lauchlan	Scott	Watson, P
	Curran	Lawson	Shattock	Williams
	Davison	McClennan	Smith, D	Wilson, A.
	Dixon	MacKnight	Smith, P	Wright, N
	Emerson	Marshall	Snowdon, D	Wright, T
	Essl	Martin, T	Snowdon, DE	
	Farthing	Miller, F	Speding	
	Fletcher	Miller, G	Stewart	

5 members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Francis	Oliver	Wiper	Wood
	Howe			

and 1 member abstaining, viz:-

Councillor Wakefield

The new substantive motion was then put to the meeting. Upon being put to the vote the new substantive motion was carried with 53 members voting in favour, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor I. Kay) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Padgett	Thompson
	Atkinson	Gibson, P	Porthouse	Trueman, D
	Ball	Gofton	Price	Trueman, H
	Bell	Jackson	Richardson	Tye
	Blackburn	Kelly	Scanlan	Walker
	Bonallie	Lauchlan	Scott	Watson, P
	Copeland	Lawson	Shattock	Williams
	Curran	McClennan	Smith, D	Wilson, A.
	Davison	MacKnight	Smith, P	Wright, N
	Dixon	Marshall	Snowdon, D	Wright, T
	Emerson	Martin, T	Snowdon, DE	
	Essl	Miller, F	Speding	
	Farthing	Miller, G	Stewart	
	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate	

1 member voting against, viz:-

Councillor Heron

and 6 members abstaining, viz:-

Councillors	Francis	Oliver	Wiper	Wood
	Howe	Wakefield		

Accordingly it was :-

RESOLVED that this Council, noting the previous (Labour) government left office with the economy in steady growth and having proposed manageable cuts in public spending to deal with the financial deficit that was incurred due to the world economic crisis; acknowledges the necessity to reduce government expenditure fairly and is dismayed at this government's inability to eliminate the deficit within their promised timescale of 2015.

(iii) Notice of Motion – Loss of a Sunderland Based Family Business

Councillor H. Trueman seconded by Councillor Padgett moved the following motion regarding the loss of a Sunderland based family business:-

“This Council, in these Government imposed harsh economic times, regrets the loss of a Sunderland based family business and furthermore that this Council recognises both their economic and community contributions, over many years, to the well being of this City.”

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Wood moved the following amendment:-

Delete “**Government imposed**”

Upon being put to the meeting, the amendment was carried unanimously. The new substantive motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED that this Council, in these harsh economic times, regrets the loss of a Sunderland based family business and furthermore that this Council recognises both their economic and community contributions, over many years, to the well being of this City.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – Education (Appointment of Governors Panel) and Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body.

The Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider appointments to the Education (Appointment of Governors Panel) and Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members were advised that paragraph 2.1 of the report referred to the resignation of Mrs Dorothy Butler from the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel and that this had been amended to read Mrs Dorothy Elliot.

Copies of the amended report were circulated.

The Leader moved the recommendations contained within the amended report and was duly seconded by Councillor H. Trueman.

Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED that approval be given to: -

- (i) the appointment of Mr Martin Dent of 12 South View, Fulwell, Sunderland SR6 9JS in place of Mrs Dorothy Elliot as the co-opted

non voting Governor representative on the Education
(Appointment of Governors) Panel; and

- (ii) the nomination of Mr Neil Revely, Executive Director of Health
Housing and Adult Services to serve as the Council's
representative on the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's
Governing Body.

(Signed) I. Kay
Mayor.