

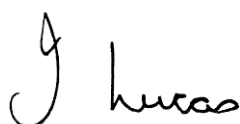
CIVIC CENTRE,
SUNDERLAND
15 January 2018

TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

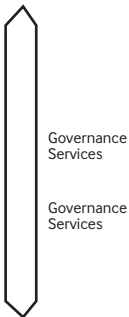
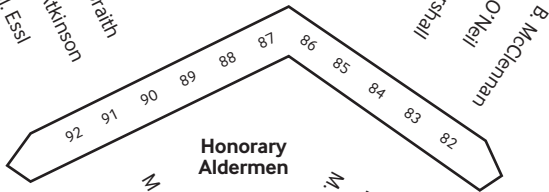
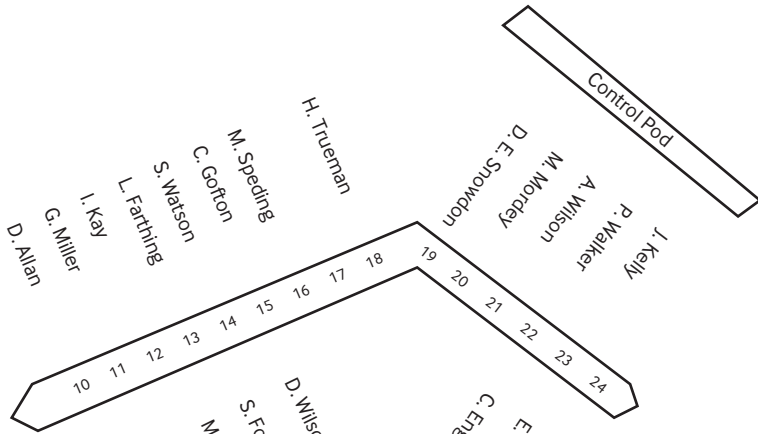
YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING of Sunderland City Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Sunderland, on **WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018** at **6.00 p.m.** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business:-

| Item | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. To read the Notice convening the meeting. | - |
| 2. To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017 (copy herewith). | 1 |
| 3. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any). | - |
| 4. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(iv). | - |
| 5. Reception of Petitions. | - |
| 6. Apologies. | - |

| | | |
|------|---|----|
| 7. | Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 9. | - |
| 8. | Report of the Cabinet (copy herewith). | 13 |
| 9. | Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 10.2. | - |
| 10. | To consider the attached motions (copy herewith). | 39 |
| 11. | To consider the following reports:- | 43 |
| (i) | Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Deputy Leader (copy herewith). | 45 |
| (ii) | Appointments to Outside Bodies- – report of the Head of Law and Governance (copy herewith). | 47 |



IRÈNE LUCAS CBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.



Head of Law
and Governance
E. Waugh

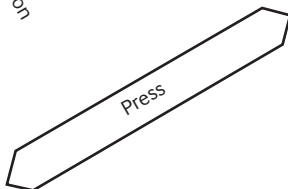
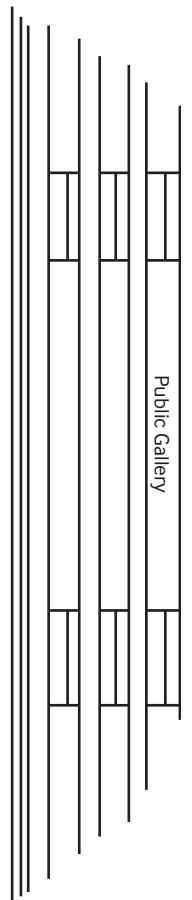
Mayor
D. MacKnight

Chief Executive
I. Lucas

Deputy Mayor
L. Scanlan

- 81 D. Waller
80 K. Johnston
79 M. Turton
78 R. Davison
77 P. Stewart
76 R. Bell
75 A. Emerson
74 P. Hunt
73 E. Ball

- 29 A. Lawson
30 G. Walker
31 P. Tye
32 P. Gibson
33 P. Smith
34 D. Turner
35 J. Blackburn
36 J. Cummings
37 P. Middleton
38 D. Dixon
39 G. Galbraith
40 S. Porthouse



Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor D MacKnight) in the Chair

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Councillors | Allan | Francis | McClennan | Taylor |
| | Allen | Galbraith, G | Middleton | Trueman, D |
| | Ball | Galbraith, I | Miller, F | Trueman, H |
| | Beck | Gibson, E | Miller, G | Turner |
| | Bell | Gibson, P | Mordey | Turton, M |
| | Blackburn | Heron | Oliver | Turton, W |
| | Chequer | Hodson | O'Brien | Tye |
| | Curran | Howe | O'Neil | Walker, G |
| | Davison | Hunt | Porthouse | Walker, P |
| | Dixon, D | Jackson | Scanlan | Waller |
| | Dixon, M | Johnston | Scaplehorn | Waters |
| | Elliott | Kay | Scullion | Wilson, A |
| | English | Kelly | Smith | Wilson, D |
| | Essl | Lauchlan | Snowdon, DE | Wood |
| | Farthing | Lawson | Snowdon, D | Wright, N |
| | Fletcher | Leadbitter | Speding | Wright, T |
| | Foster | Marshall | Stewart | |

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - Arnott, M.L
Greenfield, M
Tate, R D

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

35. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 September 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

| | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| Item 9 – Written Questions – 1 and 12 | Councillor Tye | Member of Gentoo Board |
|--|----------------|------------------------|

The Mayor requested that the Council consider varying the order of the proceedings to deal with the reception of petitions in view of the fact that there were a number of people present who wished to observe the submission of a petition for consideration by Council.

It was therefore:-

36. RESOLVED that the order of the proceedings be varied to deal with the reception of petitions as the next item.

Reception of Petitions

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

Councillor J. Fletcher - Petition of 9000 signatures from the people of Washington against the proposed siting of the Rolton Kilbride gasification plant.

Announcements

(i) Sunderland Youth Parliament

The Mayor advised that the Sunderland Youth Parliament would be meeting on Friday 24 November 2017 at 9.30 a.m. should any Member wish to attend.

(ii) Tributes to Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Watson

The Mayor, was joined by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor H. Trueman and Councillors Heron, Oliver, M. Dixon, Wood, N. Wright, Mordey, D. Wilson and T. Wright, to honour the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Watson who had recently passed away. Members paid tribute to the huge contribution he had made to the City of Sunderland and the North East region as a whole, particularly for his role in regeneration in the City, the new Wear Crossing, the International Advanced Manufacturing Park, development of the former Vaux site, as well as the forthcoming Tall Ships Race and the bid for UK City of Culture in 2021.

Members commented that Councillor Watson had worked tirelessly throughout his illness and he would be sadly missed.

The Mayor having thanked Members for their kind sentiments read a letter of thanks received from Councillor Susan Watson thanking everyone for the support which had been given to Councillor Watson during his illness. She particularly thanked everyone for their kind donations to his charities which had raised £1,500 and the overwhelming amount of cheques sent direct to the Sunderland Royal Hospital and the Freeman Hospital.

(iii) Former Borough Treasurer, Frank Coulthard

The Mayor paid tribute to the service and contribution of Frank Coulthard, who was the former Treasurer of the Houghton Urban District Council and former Borough Treasurer for Sunderland Borough Council, who had recently passed away.

Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Watson and Mr Frank Coulthard, former Borough Treasurer.

(iv) UK Public Sector Communications Awards 2017

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mordey informed Members that at the recent UK Public Sector Communications Awards ceremony, the Council and DTW public relations and marketing agency, had won an award in the category for Media Relations Campaign of the Year for the New Wear Crossing. He reported that the award recognised an exemplary media relations campaign that delivered exceptional results and coverage.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, Cummings, Emerson, Gofton, S. Watson, Williams together with Honorary Alderman Forbes.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Amendment of Council Procedure Rules

That they will be giving consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Law and Governance on proposed amendments to the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution to include a procedure for enabling the public to ask questions on notice at meetings of full Council and other amendments referred to in the report.

The Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council to:-

- (i) approve the amendments to the Council Procedure Rules set out in the report and
- (ii) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to update the Constitution accordingly and to make any typographical and stylistic corrections required.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council were set out in a supplementary report (copy circulated) and were as follows:-

- (i) approve the amendments to the Council Procedure Rules set out in the report, together with a further amendment in respect of the provision for written notice to be given of any amendments to be moved to Budget or Policy Framework proposals, which is set out in draft Rule 13.7 (f), in order to make it clear that the written notice to be given must set out the proposed amendment, so the first part of the Rule will state that:

“No amendments to a motion or recommendation that relates to the Budget or Policy Framework may be moved unless written notice, which sets out the amendment or amendments proposed, has been given by the member(s) proposing the amendment and has been delivered to the Chief Executive’s Office not later than noon on the second working day before the date of the meeting” and

- (ii) authorise the Head of Law and Governance to update the Constitution accordingly and to make any typographical and stylistic corrections required.

2. International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan – Adoption

That they will be giving consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Economy and Place seeking approval to recommend the adoption of the Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils’ joint Area Action Plan (AAP) for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) following its independent examination conducted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

During the course of this examination, a number of modifications to the AAP had been proposed by Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils, the Planning Inspector and those parties who had made representations at the examination. The modified AAP had been subject to additional consultation and the Planning Inspector had issued his report (Appendix A). This confirmed that he considered the AAP (Appendix C) to be “Sound” subject to these main modifications (Appendix B).

Upon adoption the AAP will become part of the Local Plans of both South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils, and will provide the spatial planning policy that will shape the future development of the IAMP. South Tyneside Council will consider a report on the adoption of the AAP on 30th November 2017.

The Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council to:-

- (i) Note the Planning Inspector’s Report on the IAMP AAP (Appendix A) and accept the Main Modifications set out in Appendix B;

- (ii) Adopt the International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan including the Policies Map (Appendix C) to take effect from 30 November 2017, subject to South Tyneside Council also resolving to adopt the IAMP AAP.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council were set out in a supplementary report (copy circulated) and were as follows:-

- (i) Note the Planning Inspector's Report on the IAMP AAP (Appendix A) and accept the Main Modifications set out in Appendix B;
- (ii) Adopt the International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan including the Policies Map (Appendix C) to take effect from 30 November 2017, subject to South Tyneside Council also resolving to adopt the IAMP AAP.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor H Trueman, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Speding, moved the report of the Cabinet.

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Francis, moved that the Amendment of Council Procedure Rules report be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration as follows:-

- it was felt that the changes would make it more difficult to scrutinise the Executive,
- the change to the notice of questions from two days prior to the Council meeting to four days would not enable emerging issues to be questioned,
- similarly with the prior notice of amendments for Budget and Policy Framework matters, there should be a fair expectation that amendments could be handled on the day of the meeting, and
- in respect of the State of the City Debate, the debate should be chaired by a local independent, impartial person.

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

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Councillors | Curran | Francis | Leadbitter | Trueman, D. |
| | Dixon, M. | Hodson | O'Brien | Wood |
| | Fletcher | Howe | Oliver | |

50 Members voting against:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Councillors | Allan | Galbraith, I. | Middleton | Trueman, H. |
| | Ball | Gibson, E. | Miller, F. | Turner |
| | Bell | Gibson, P. | Miller, G. | Turton, M. |
| | Blackburn | Heron | Mordey | Turton, W. |
| | Chequer | Hunt | O'Neil | Tye |
| | Davison | Jackson | Porthouse | Walker, G. |
| | Dixon, D. | Johnston | Scanlan | Walker, P. |
| | Elliott | Kay | Scullion | Waller |
| | English | Kelly | Smith | Waters |
| | Essl | Lauchlan | Snowdon, D. | Wilson, A. |
| | Farthing | Lawson | Speding | Wright, T. |
| | Foster | Marshall | Stewart | |
| | Galbraith, G. | McClennan | Taylor | |

And 1 abstention

Councillor Beck

Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, proposed two amendments to the report on Council Procedure Rules (pp. 17-28):-

At pages 24-25, Item 9.3, at the end of the present text, add: "A digest of questions received will be communicated to the leaders of all political groups on the Council."

So that, amended it reads:

"9.3 If the Chief Executive considers that the number of questions received is such that they cannot all be answered within 15 minutes, he/she will, after consulting with the Mayor, select those which are to be put to the Council meeting. Any question which cannot be dealt with at the meeting because of lack of time will be dealt with by a written answer to be sent within 5 working days of the Council meeting by the member of whom the question was asked. A digest of questions received will be communicated to the leaders of all political groups on the Council."

At page 25, Item 9.8, leave out: "Questions that have been accepted will be read out at the relevant meeting by the Mayor.", and insert: "The Questioner will be invited to put their question to the relevant meeting in person, or opt to have their question read out at the relevant meeting by the Mayor. Questions that have been accepted will then be read out at the relevant meeting by the Questioner, or by the Mayor on their behalf."

So that, amended it reads:

"9.8 The Questioner will be invited to put their question to the relevant meeting in person, or opt to have their question read out at the relevant meeting by the Mayor. Questions that have been accepted will then be read out at the relevant meeting by the Questioner, or by the Mayor on their behalf."

Upon being put to the vote, the amendments were defeated with 9 members voting in favour: -

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Councillors | Allen Dixon, M. Francis | Hodson Howe | Leadbitter O'Brien | Oliver Wood |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|

57 Members voting against:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| Councillors | Allan Ball Beck Bell Blackburn Chequer Curran Davison Dixon, D. Elliott English Essl Farthing Fletcher | Foster Galbraith, G. Galbraith, I. Gibson, E. Gibson, P. Heron Hunt Jackson Johnston Kay Kelly Lauchlan Lawson Marshall | McClennan Middleton Miller, F. Miller, G. Mordey O'Neil Porthouse Scanlan Scaplehorn Scullion Smith Snowdon, D. Snowdon, D.E. Speding | Stewart Taylor Trueman, D. Trueman, H. Turner Turton, M. Turton, W. Tye Walker, G. Walker, P. Waller Waters Wilson, A. Wilson, D. Wright, T. |
|-------------|---|--|--|--|

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

38. RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet, including the supplementary report, be approved and adopted.

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Annual Audit Letter 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to the Annual Audit Letter (copy attached) covering the year 2016/2017 prepared by the Council's external auditor Mazars LLP.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends Council to note the Annual Audit Letter for 2016/2017.

Councillor O'Neil, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Speding, moved the report of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Upon the report of the Audit and Governance Committee being put to the Council it was: -

39. RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Governance Committee be noted.

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 on Petitions

The Council received and noted the report below which detailed the action taken in relation to the following petition which had been presented to the Council at its meeting held on 20 September, 2017.

(i) Petition to Council to reopen the Cat & Dog Steps Public Toilets

Detail of the Petition

The following petition signed by over 180 residents was presented by Councillor Leadbitter on behalf of the Lead Petitioner:-

“We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge the council to act now and reopen the public conveniences. This is the only public toilet and is having a significant impact on visitors to the area.”

Background

The toilets were closed in July, shortly before the Sunderland Air Show, due to a breakdown of the sewage pumping system.

Every effort was made by the Council's building maintenance and drainage teams to carry out repairs and reopen the toilets in advance of the air show however due to the unavailability of replacement parts and extent of work required this was not possible. Unfortunately the Council was left with no option other than to keep the facilities closed until such time as necessary repairs had been completed.

Repairs were carried out in late September and the toilets reopened for use on 2 October. Every effort was made to keep the temporary closure period to a minimum.

Actions Taken in Response

Whilst at the date of the receipt of the petition the toilets were closed, it was always the Council's intention to reopen the facilities while making every effort to keep the period of closure to a minimum. As stated above, the toilets reopened on 2 October.

The Ward Councillors and lead petitioner have been advised of the outcome.

40. RESOLVED that the action taken on petitions be noted.

Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Deputy 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 Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor H. Trueman, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Speding, moved the report.

41. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Outside Bodies – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider the appointment of Councillor I. Galbraith to replace Councillor Middleton to serve on the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, moved that the recommendation contained in the report be approved and it was: -

42. RESOLVED that Councillor I. Galbraith be appointed to replace Councillor Middleton to serve on the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

(Signed) D MACKNIGHT
Mayor

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Council Tax Base 2017/2018

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommend to Council that:-

- (a) the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2018/2019 be approved.
- (b) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2018/2019, shall be 69,991 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,711.

2. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services (copy attached) requesting that the Council continue with its Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2018/2019.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) Approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the main features of which, incorporating the proposed changes, are set out at Appendix A, for the financial year 2018/19; and
- (ii) Authorise the publication of the approved Scheme on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

CABINET MEETING – 10 JANUARY 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Council Tax Base 2018/2019.

Author(s):

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report:

To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:

The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2018/2019 be approved.

That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2018/2019, shall be 69,991 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,711.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Impacts analysed:

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's Co-operative values? Yes

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2018/2019

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. Description of Decision

Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:

- 2.1. The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2018/2019 be approved.
- 2.2. That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2018/2019, shall be 69,991 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,711.

3. Background to the Calculation of the Council Tax Base

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base is the estimated number of properties in each valuation band adjusted to take account of the estimated number of discounts, disregards and exemptions. The Council levies a Council Tax on the basis of properties in band D and thus the numbers for each valuation band are adjusted to the proportion which their number is to band D. The Council must then estimate its level of collection for the year and apply this figure to arrive at the Council Tax Base figure.
- 3.2 The Council Tax Base must be calculated for both the Billing Authority and Hetton Town Council (a local parish precept). The Billing Authority's Tax Base will be used to calculate the Council Tax for the City Council (including any social care precept) and as the basis for the major precepting authorities (Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) to determine their precept requirements.
- 3.3 The introduction of the Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme from 1st April 2013 means that the council must approve annually its proposed Council Tax Support scheme. The impact of the scheme is recognised within the calculations as a council tax discount which is referred to as Item Z. The proposed 2018/2019 Scheme is set out elsewhere on today's agenda. The Tax Base of the Council for 2018/2019 includes the full impact of the Scheme as required by the regulations.
- 3.4 The Council Tax Base has increased from last year by 589. The increase is primarily due to the number of new homes built across the city over the last year and the anticipated number of new homes expected to be built over the next year.

4. Calculations of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

4.1 This calculation is in two parts – 'A' - the calculation of the estimated adjusted band D properties and 'B' - the estimated level of collection.

4.2 The calculation of 'A' - the relevant amounts for each band is complex and includes a number of calculations which are shown at Appendix 1.

4.3 Calculation of Item 'B' - Estimate of Collection Rate

This element of the formula is to reflect the level of collection anticipated. Following consideration of historic and current collection levels of both in year debit and arrears collection, and the overall favourable collection fund position, the collection rate was increased to 98.5% for 2017/2018. It is proposed to continue applying 98.5% in 2018/2019.

4.4 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Council's Tax Base is: 'A' 71,056.85 x 'B' 98.5% = 69,991
(for comparison the previous years Tax Base was 69,401.54)

5. Calculation of Council Tax Base for Hetton Town Council - Local Precept

5.1 The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for the area covered by Hetton Town Council are similar to those used in calculating the Billing Authority's Tax Base except that chargeable dwellings and discounts are to be taken for only those dwellings and discounts relating to the area for which the Council Tax Base is to be calculated. These detailed calculations are shown in Appendix 1.

5.2 The same collection rate is required to be used for Parish precepts as for the Billing Authority.

5.3 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Tax Base for Hetton Town Council is: 'A' 3,767.73 x 'B' 98.5% = 3,711.21
(for comparison the previous years Tax base was 3,588.66)

6. Reasons for Decision

6.1 To comply with statutory requirements.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 No alternative options are proposed.

8. Impact Analysis

8.1 There are no implications.

9. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Calculation of the Council Tax Base

Council Tax Base - Sunderland City Council

| | | Disabled | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------|------------------|
| | | Band (A) | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H | Total |
| Chargeable Dwellings | Item H | 180 | 77,640 | 18,002 | 16,452 | 8,553 | 3,155 | 1,048 | 624 | 20 | 125,674 |
| Total Discount | Item Q | 10.00 | 9,600.60 | 1,561.75 | 1,104.50 | 429.00 | 142.00 | 54.00 | 47.50 | 4.50 | 12,953.85 |
| Premium Factor | Item E | 0 | 200.5 | 27.5 | 19.5 | 5 | 2.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 260 |
| Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts | Item J | 0 | 191 | 366 | 390 | 193 | 58 | 20 | 6 | 0 | 1,224 |
| Council Tax Support Estimate | Item Z | 39.30 | 20,702.04 | 1,901.39 | 786.06 | 207.70 | 56.57 | 12.26 | 9.24 | 0.00 | 23,714.56 |
| Prescribed Proportions for each Band | Item F | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 18 | |
| Prescribed Proportion for Band D | Item G | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| $((H-Q+E+J)-Z)*(F/G)$ | Item A | 72.61 | 31,819.24 | 11,614.06 | 13,307.50 | 8,114.30 | 3,687.36 | 1,449.85 | 957.93 | 34.00 | 71,056.85 |
| Estimated Collection Rate | Item B | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | |
| Tax Base A*B | | 71.52 | 31,341.95 | 11,439.85 | 13,107.89 | 7,992.59 | 3,632.05 | 1,428.10 | 943.56 | 33.49 | 69,991.00 |

Council Tax Base - Hetton Town Council

| | | Disabled | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| | | Band (A) | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H | Total |
| Chargeable Dwellings | Item H | 15 | 4,729 | 1,084 | 616 | 288 | 106 | 39 | 23 | 1 | 6,901 |
| Total Discount | Item Q | 1.25 | 577.75 | 82.75 | 36.75 | 14.25 | 6.75 | 3.25 | 1.75 | 0 | 724.50 |
| Premium Factor | Item E | 0 | 17.5 | 3.5 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| Adjustment in number of dwellings or discounts | Item J | 0 | 0 | 36 | 45 | 34 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 137 |
| Council Tax Support Estimate | Item Z | 2.88 | 1,280.66 | 59.71 | 18.00 | 9.63 | 2.67 | 0.00 | 1.77 | 0.00 | 1,375.32 |
| Prescribed Proportions for each Band | Item F | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 18 | |
| Prescribed Proportion for Band D | Item G | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| $((H-Q+E+J)-Z)*(F/G)$ | Item A | 6.04 | 1,925.39 | 763.03 | 538.89 | 299.12 | 130.88 | 68.25 | 34.13 | 2.00 | 3,767.73 |
| Estimated Collection Rate | Item B | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | 98.5% | |
| Tax Base A*B | | 5.95 | 1,896.51 | 751.59 | 530.81 | 294.63 | 128.91 | 67.23 | 33.62 | 1.97 | 3,711.21 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| CABINET MEETING – 10 January 2018 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I | | | | | | | | |
| Title of Report: Local Council Tax Support Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Author(s): Executive Director of Corporate Services | | | | | | | | |
| Purpose of Report: To seek approval for Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS), the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, be implemented with effect from 1 April 2018. | | | | | | | | |
| Description of Decision: To recommend Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve the council's LCTSS, the main features of which, incorporating the proposed changes, are set out at Appendix A, for the financial year 2018/19; and (ii) Authorise the publication of the approved LCTSS on the council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary. | | | | | | | | |
| Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework | | | | | | | | |
| Suggested reason(s) for Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The council must have its LCTSS approved by 31 January 2018; and (ii) The proposed scheme, the main features, incorporating the proposed changes, of which are as set out at Appendix A, reflects the experience of the impact of the scheme to date, takes into account the recent consultation undertaken, and is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for low-income residents. Impacts of the scheme will continue to be closely monitored following the LCTSS implementation in April 2018. | | | | | | | | |
| Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: There are no alternative options proposed. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a LCTSS for the ensuing financial year by 31 January. | | | | | | | | |
| Impacts analysed; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Equality</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="border: none;">Privacy</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">N/A</td> <td style="border: none;">Sustainability</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">N/A</td> <td style="border: none;">Crime and Disorder</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">N/A</td> </tr> </table> | Equality | ✓ | Privacy | N/A | Sustainability | N/A | Crime and Disorder | N/A |
| Equality | ✓ | Privacy | N/A | Sustainability | N/A | Crime and Disorder | N/A | |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes | |
| Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? | Yes |
| Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? | Yes |

CABINET MEETING – 10 JANUARY 2018

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS), the main features of which are set at Appendix A be implemented with effect from 1 April 2018.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 To recommend Council to:-
- (i) approve the council's LCTSS, the main features of which, incorporating the proposed changes, are as set out at Appendix A for the financial year 2018/19; and
 - (ii) authorise the publication of the approved Scheme on the council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the Council Tax Benefit system and replaced it under the Local Government Finance Act 2012 with the Local Council Tax Support scheme from 1st April 2013, thereby transferring responsibility from central to local government. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 also legislated that pensioners must receive protection, in that they must receive the same levels of entitlement under the new local Council Tax Support scheme as they had received under the old Council Tax Benefit scheme.
- 3.2 Following the implementation of the scheme in April 2013, the council adopted an updated scheme which was based on the government's default scheme. Evaluation of previous consultation resulted in some minor modifications to the scheme in 2015/16 such as utilising assumed consent that applicants of Housing Benefit also wished to be considered for Local Council Tax Support.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The existing scheme is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for low-income residents plus pensioners continue to be afforded protection. Following approval by Cabinet, consultation was undertaken with regard to a number of proposed technical and administrative changes in order to align the scheme to Housing Benefit rules and to make the LCTSS more efficient to administer and easier for the customer to understand. There were no

proposals to amend the minimum payment payable by Working Age claimants from 8.5 %.

4.2 The proposed changes, most of which will only affect new claimants going forward are as follows:

1. Backdating Rules

Reduce the period for which LCTSS claims can be backdated to one calendar month (currently 6 months). This is to mirror Housing Benefit regulations and will improve the administration process.

2. Family Premium

It is proposed to remove the family premium from the LCTSS calculation for new applicants from April 2018. This will have no impact on existing recipients (unless they have a break in their entitlement). The change will make the LCTSS consistent with Housing Benefit regulations and will aid administration.

3. Two child limit

There will be no personal allowance for any third or later child for claims made after 1 April 2018, unless special circumstances exceptions apply for example if the child was born as part of a multiple birth. This proposal aligns with the changes to Housing Benefit regulations and will again aid administration.

4. Temporary absence

Align the LCTSS rules to Housing Benefit scheme so a claimant will not be entitled to council tax support if they are temporarily absent from Great Britain for a period which is likely to last more than 4 weeks (exceptions apply to certain groups for example if a claimant is in hospital). This would apply to both working age and state pension credit age claimants.

5. Universal Credit

Treat a notification of Universal Credit as an indication of a claim under the LCTSS. This will assist claimants in accessing the LCTSS.

6. Self Employed

Where a claimant is self-employed, assess their self-employed income as being equivalent to the Minimum Income Floor (an assumed level of earnings) after a period of 12 months.

Results of Consultation on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme

4.3 Consultation was carried out on the proposed changes from 2nd October to 19th November 2017 and 162 responses were received. Two briefings were also held with Members on 23rd and 24th October. The results of the survey have been analysed. In general, all proposals had high levels of support with more respondents in favour of the proposals and with "Strongly Agree" being the most common view in each case.

| Proposal | Strongly Agree | Agree | Sub Total | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Sub Total |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Backdating | 31% | 18% | 49% | 24% | 21% | 45% |
| 2. Family Premium | 30% | 25% | 55% | 19% | 14% | 33% |
| 3. Two child limit | 42% | 27% | 69% | 18% | 7% | 25% |
| 4. Temporary absence | 47% | 25% | 72% | 9% | 9% | 18% |
| 5. Universal Credit | 54% | 24% | 78% | 5% | 7% | 12% |
| 6. Self Employed | 40% | 25% | 65% | 17% | 4% | 21% |

*Results may not add up to 100% due to nil responses and those answering that they neither agree nor disagree with a proposal.

- 4.4 Removing those respondents that did not provide a response or answered that they did not agree or disagree with a proposal from the analysis shows that the majority of respondents, ranging from 52% to 87%, were supportive of each of the proposals as shown in the table below:

| Proposal | Strongly Agree | Agree | Sub Total | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Sub Total |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Backdating | 33% | 19% | 52% | 26% | 22% | 48% |
| 2. Family Premium | 34% | 28% | 62% | 22% | 16% | 38% |
| 3. Two child limit | 45% | 28% | 73% | 19% | 8% | 27% |
| 4. Temporary absence | 52% | 28% | 80% | 10% | 10% | 20% |
| 5. Universal Credit | 60% | 27% | 87% | 5% | 8% | 13% |
| 6. Self Employed | 46% | 29% | 75% | 20% | 5% | 25% |

5. Proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme

- 5.1 Following the successful application of the current scheme and taking into consideration the outcomes of the consultation undertaken, it is proposed that the council adopt proposals one to five.
- 5.2 Whilst respondents were in favour of the proposal to assume a minimum income floor for self-employed claimants, it is proposed that this option is no longer implemented at this current time given that the Work and Pensions committee is undertaking a further review of the application of the minimum income floor in relation to self-employed people. The outcome of this review, and implications of the full rollout of Universal Credit in Sunderland which is now planned to be in July 2018, will be considered in any review of the scheme for 2019. The main features of the LCTSS including the proposed changes are set out in Appendix A.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The operation of the proposed scheme is expected to be broadly neutral when compared with the current year, with the cost of the scheme factored into the council's budget planning.

7. Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 The council must have its Local Council Tax Support Scheme approved by 31 January 2018.
- 7.2 The proposed scheme, the main features, incorporating the proposed changes, of which are as set out at Appendix A, reflects the experience of the impact of the scheme to date, takes into account the recent consultation undertaken, and is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for low-income residents. Impacts of the scheme will continue to be closely monitored following the LCTSS implementation in April 2018.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1 There are no alternative options proposed. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a LCTSS for the ensuing financial year by 31 January.

9. Impact Analysis

(a) Equalities –

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is set out in Appendix B to this report.

Work will continue to assess the impact of this scheme alongside the related impacts of any welfare and benefit reforms either already introduced, planned to be introduced or still being considered by Government.

10. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (i) **Legal Implications** – The comments of the Head of Law and Governance have been taken into account in preparing this report.
- (ii) **Other Consultations** – The comments of the Executive Director of People Services have been taken into account in preparing this report.

11. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Local Council Tax Support Scheme Main Features
Appendix B – Equality Analysis

12. Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Local Council Tax Support Scheme Main Features

1. Council tax support entitlement will be calculated and reduced by 8.5% for all working aged claimants.
2. Pensioners who are of pension age will be treated under pensioner rules even if they are available for work.
3. Those non-dependants serving in the forces on operations will continue to be disregarded from the calculation.
4. Information held in respect of Housing Benefit can be used to calculate Council Tax support where appropriate.
5. LCTSS claims may be backdated to a maximum of one month providing good cause is shown.
6. No family premium will be used in the calculation for new applicants from April 2018.
7. There will be no personal allowance for any third or subsequent child from April 2018 (unless an exception applies).
8. A claimant will not be entitled to Council Tax Support if they are temporarily absent from Great Britain for longer than 4 weeks (unless an exception applies).
9. A notification of Universal Credit will be treat as an indication of a claim for Council Tax Support.

EQUALITY ANALYSIS

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:

Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

Date: 30/11/17

Version Number: v1

Equality Analysis completed by:

Name/Job title: Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager)

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name/Job title: Paul Wilson (Head of External Funding,
Revenues and Commercial Finance)

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ()

Changing/Being Reviewed (x)

Other ()

1. Purpose and scope

Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished the Council Tax Benefit system and replaced it under the Local Government Finance Act 2012 with the Local Council Tax Support scheme from 1st April 2013, thereby transferring responsibility from central to local government. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 also legislated that pensioners must receive protection, in that they must receive the same levels of entitlement under the new local Council Tax Support scheme as they had received under the old Council Tax Benefit scheme.

Following the implementation of the scheme in April 2013, the council adopted an updated scheme which was based on the government's default scheme. Evaluation of previous consultation resulted in some minor modifications to the scheme in 2015/16 such as utilising assumed consent that applicants of Housing Benefit also wished to be considered for Local Council Tax Support.

The council must approve its Local Council Tax Support Scheme by 31 January 2018 In line with reviewing the scheme, the following changes were proposed for 2017/18 and subject to a consultation exercise.

- **Universal Credit**
Treat a notification of Universal Credit as an indication of a claim under the LCTSS. This will assist claimants in accessing the LCTSS.
- **Backdating Rules**
Reduce the period for which LCTSS claims can be backdated to one calendar month (currently 6 months). This is to mirror Housing Benefit regulations and will improve the administration process.
- **Temporary absence**
Align the LCTSS rules to Housing Benefit scheme so a claimant will not be entitled to council tax support if they are temporarily absent from Great Britain for a period which is likely to last more than 4 weeks (exceptions apply to certain groups for example if a claimant is in hospital). This would apply to both working age and state pension credit age claimants.
- **Self Employed**

Where a claimant is self-employed, assess their self-employed income as being equivalent to the Minimum Income Floor (an assumed level of earnings) after a period of 12 months.

- **Family Premium**

It is proposed to remove the family premium from the LCTSS calculation for new applicants from April 2018. This will have no impact on existing recipients (unless they have a break in their entitlement). The change will make the LCTSS consistent with Housing Benefit regulations and will aid administration.

- **Two child limit**

There will be no personal allowance for any third or later child born after 6 April 2017, unless special circumstances exceptions apply for example if the child was born as part of a multiple birth. This proposal aligns with the changes to Housing Benefit regulations and will again aid administration.

Subject to approval by 31st January 2018, the scheme will come into force on 1st April 2018. The scheme will be reviewed each year and any impacts will be assessed and reviewed when considering the scheme for 2019/20 and future years alongside any implications from the full rollout of Universal Credit which has now been delayed for Sunderland until July 2018. The current proposals are intended to make the scheme easier to understand for claimants and more administratively efficient.

The proposals will impact on all Council Tax payers. The non-claimants will benefit as the cost of the scheme will reduce, albeit the savings are anticipated to be minimal. Those persons on low incomes who claim Council Tax Support may see a reduction in the level of Council Tax Support they are entitled to although, not all claimants will be negatively impacted. A pensioner's entitlement is unaffected, with the exception of proposal three which may have an impact on persons of pensionable age if they were to take extended holidays in excess of four weeks out of the country.

None of the protected groups are restricted from claiming council tax support. Their eligibility is determined by their financial and personal circumstances. The current caseload is 33,492 of which 14,492 are pensioners and 19,000 are working age claimants.

Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

This equality analysis has been informed by a consultation exercise carried out between 5th October 2017 and 19th November 2017 and also two briefings held with elected members.

The consultation exercise attracted 162 responses. There was a 22% greater response from females to male and the majority of respondents were Council Tax payers (93%), of which 12 % were in receipt of Council Tax Support. The highest level of respondents came from the 45-59 age group (38%), whilst 22% of respondents were over 60 years old. 22% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability. 3% of respondents were non British

Gaps in intelligence and information

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

Not applicable.

Additional Impacts

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)

Not applicable.

2. Analysis of impact on people

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.

| Characteristic | List of Impacts | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
| Age | Pensioners are protected under the scheme and are still eligible to receive up to 100% council tax support. | . | It could be assumed that pensioners are more likely than most groups to take extended breaks abroad (particularly in winter) and therefore may be affected by proposal two which restricts their claim if they are out of the country for more than 4 weeks. |
| Disability | . | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. | |
| Gender/Sex | | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. Whilst woman may be statistically lower earners, and therefore more likely to claim Council Tax Support there is no evidence of a greater impact from any of the proposed changes. | |
| Marriage & Civil Partnership | | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | There may be an impact on those potential claimants whose circumstances mean their next child is the third in the family and they are not covered by an exception. Given that this is an unknown future event, it is hard to assess what the specific impact will be. |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | The proposal relating to temporary absence may impact on certain ethnic groups who may return to their home country for extended periods exceeding four weeks. There is no evidence to confirm that this will be the case and the change in policy will be monitored and reviewed as necessary. |
| Religion/belief | | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. | |
| Sexual Orientation | | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. | |
| Gender identity | | There is no significant impact relative to other groups. | |

Please add any additional groups mentioned in “additional impacts” above to this table.

3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

- No Major Change ()
- Continue Despite Negative Implications ()
- Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity (x)
- Stop ()

Action Plan

| ACTION | WHO | WHEN | In conc |
|--|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Monitor the impact on ethnic groups in relation to the temporary absence change. | Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager) Loraine Nelson (Benefits Manager) | Quarterly | In conjunction with Benefits Service |
| Monitor impact on claimants | Sharon Holden (Revenues Manager) and Loraine Nelson (Benefits Manager) | Quarterly | In conjunction with Benefits Service |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Notices of Motion

NOTICES OF MOTION

Council Members are asked to consider the under mentioned Motions:-

(i) Pest Control and Poison - Resistant Rats

Recent figures have shown that Sunderland has one of the highest rates for call-outs to deal with rat sightings (5,304 last year – a rate of more than 19 per 1,000 residents), and that Sunderland City Council has dealt with more infestations of the rodent per head than almost any other authority in Britain.

This Council recognizes:

- That rats are a danger to the health and wellbeing of residents
- That the problem of an increasing rat population which is immune to many standard poisons must be addressed
- Inexpert use of poison can make the problem worse

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Cabinet to reintroduce the free pest control service for all residents
- To ask the Cabinet to publicize the risk of poison-resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can rat-proof their homes, for example fitting strips to the bottoms of doors, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent rodents gaining entry
- To ask the Cabinet to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of rats

Councillor N. Hodson
Councillor S.F. O'Brien

(ii) Litter in the City's Streets

This Council recognises the level of public concern at litter in the city's streets and the lack of enforcement compared to neighbouring councils.

It will therefore resolve to increase the number of fines handed out for littering in a cost-neutral way by establishing its own enforcement company.

Councillor R. Oliver
Councillor P. Wood
Councillor M. Dixon
Councillor R. Francis

(iii) East Coast Mainline

This Council notes with dismay the recent press reports that the Government intends to bail out the Joint Venture of Stagecoach and Virgin that currently operates the East Coast Mainline franchise to the tune of £2 billion.

We call upon the Government to ensure that the taxpayers of this country are not left holding the bill for this botched privatisation.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to demand that he ensures that Stagecoach and Virgin honour their commitments in the original franchise agreement.

Councillor M. Mordey
Councillor C. Gofton
Councillor S. Watson
Councillor R. Bell
Councillor M. Beck
Councillor P. Gibson
Councillor M. Speding
Councillor T. Wright
Councillor D.E. Snowdon
Councillor J. Fletcher
Councillor P. Walker
Councillor A. Wilson
Councillor H. Trueman
Councillor A. Lawson
Councillor S. Foster
Councillor M. Elliott
Councillor P. Tye
Councillor D. Waller
Councillor G. Walker
Councillor R. Atkinson
Councillor M. Essl
Councillor J. Cummings
Councillor D. Turner
Councillor J. Blackburn
Councillor B. McClennan
Councillor V. O'Neil
Councillor I. Kay

Reports

Report on Special Urgency Decisions**Report of the Deputy Leader**

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken as a matter of special urgency. The relevant provisions are now contained in Regulations 11 and 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

These are the special urgency provisions under which key decisions may be taken by the executive, although not contained in the 28 day Notice of Key decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or private), where compliance with Regulation 10 (the general exception) was also impracticable.

There have been no such instances since the last report.

Recommendation

That the Council notes the content of this report.

COUNCIL

24 JANUARY 2018

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider appointments to a number of vacancies on outside bodies, in respect of positions which were held by the former Leader of the Council, Paul Watson.
- 1.2 A letter has also been received advising that Councillor Kelly has tendered his resignation as Appointed Governor representative for the Council on the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust.

The Company Secretary of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust has asked that the Council nominates a replacement for Councillor Kelly and has drawn attention to specific requirements of the Trust's Constitution which prevent the nomination of a Governor of another NHS Foundation Trust and also prevent the nomination of a Local Authority appointed governor who is a member of the Local Authority's Scrutiny Committee covering health matters. The Company Secretary has also advised that Appointed Governors hold a three year term of office.

2.0 Appointments to Outside Bodies

- 2.1 The following appointments are proposed to the Outside Bodies listed to remain until the Annual Council Meeting on 17 May 2018:-

Age UK – Deputy Cabinet Member, Health, Housing and Adult Services

Association of North East Councils Limited:
Leaders' and Elected Mayors' Group – Deputy Leader
Resources Task and Finish Group - Deputy Leader

International Advanced Manufacturing Park LLP – Cabinet Secretary

Key Cities Board - Cabinet Secretary

Local Government Association – SIGOMA - Cabinet Secretary,

Newcastle Airport Local Authority Holding Company Limited -
Deputy Leader

North East Local Enterprise Board - Deputy Leader

Sunderland Partnership Non Executive Board - Cabinet
Secretary

2.2 South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust – nomination to be provided.

3.0 Recommendations

The Council is accordingly recommended to:-

- (i) make the appointments to the Outside Bodies as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report and agree that the appointments remain until the Annual Council Meeting on 17 May 2018; and
- (ii) nominate a replacement for Councillor Kelly as Appointed Governor representative for the Council on the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust in line with the Trust's requirements and for a three year term of office as set out in paragraphs 1.2 and 2.2 of the report.