

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Porthouse) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor B Curran)

Councillors	Allan	Francis	Martin, L	Trueman, D.
	Allen	Galbraith	Martin, T	Trueman, H.
	Anderson	Gallagher	Miller, F	Turton, M
	Atkinson	Gibson, E	Miller, G	Turton, W
	Ball	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Tye
	Bell	Gofton	Price	Walker
	Cummings	Howe	Scott	Watson, P.
	Davison	Jackson	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Dixon, M	Kay	Smith, D	Williams
	Emerson	Kelly	Smith, P	Wilson, A
	Errington	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D	Wilson, D.
	Essl	Leadbitter	Snowdon, D.E	Wiper
	Farthing	Lawson	Speding	Wood
	Fletcher	McClennan	Stewart	Wright, N.
	Forbes	MackKnight	Taylor	
	Foster	Marshall	Thompson	

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Michael Arnott, Mark Greenfield.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

28. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

(i) Northern Design Awards – Commercial Landscaping Category

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Speding presented the Council with a Northern Design Award for the regeneration work carried out at Marine Walk and Seaburn Promenade.

Councillor Speding advised that this was the second year in a row that the Council had won a Northern Design Award and it was the third award this year for the seafront.

Designed by the Council's in-house Landscape Architecture team, the judges recognised that 'the success of the Council's approach was already being borne out, with much improved visitor numbers, new events and increased private sector investment and activity.'

(ii) Northumberland In Bloom Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mordey informed Members that the Annual Awards Ceremony for Northumbria in Bloom 2014 took place at Gosforth Park Racecourse on 16 September, 2014.

Councillor Mordey expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Mayoress for attending the event which was also attended by delegates from across Northumbria In Bloom, which covered Northumberland, Durham Tees Valley and Cumbria.

Councillor Mordey was delighted to report to Council the achievements of the City, its partners and many of its communities. The excellent results in the Northumbria in Bloom Major Awards were reported as follows: -

- Sunderland – In the Large City Class – Trophy Winner and Gold Award;
- Washington – In the Small City Class – Trophy Winner and Gold Award;
- Hetton le Hole and Houghton le Spring – In the Large Town Class – Gold Award to both; and
- Washington Village – In the Best Village Class – Gold Award

Councillor Mordey expressed his delight in acknowledging the achievements of the City and announced the following major awards:-

- Mowbray Park;
- Doxford International Business Park;
- The Roker Hotel;
- Alan White of East Rainton Village and also overall Regional Winner for Best Private Garden; and
- Erland Polden Chairman of Washington Village for his outstanding voluntary contribution.

Councillor Mordey reported the achievements of the numerous schools, community groups, voluntary and business participants in this year's competition who had been successful in achieving the following: -

- Rainton Bridge Business Park
- Whitby Rise Care Home
- Herrington Country Park
- Princess Ann Park
- Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve
- Concord Bus Station, Washington
- Concord Shopping Area
- The Nuttery, Washington Village
- Barley Mow Park
- Barnes Park
- Sunderland University
- Primrose Allotments
- Richard Avenue Primary School

All those listed were Trophy Winners and received Gold Awards

- Thompson Park
- Usworth Park

Both received Silver-Gilt Awards

Councillor Mordey further reported that a wide range of organisations representing communities across the city had received the Royal Horticultural Society "Its Your Neighbourhood Awards". These were announced as follows: -

- Ayton Gardens Allotments
- Friends of Backhouse and Barley Mow Parks
- Sunderland Minster Volunteers
- St Leonards RC Primary School
- Primrose Allotments
- Old Donnison School Garden
- Monkwearmouth Station Museum
- Hylton Dene
- Hendon Community Allotment
- Mowbray Park Friends Group
- Barley Mow Sensory Garden
- Sunderland Academy 360
- Washington Old Hall, Washington Village "Nature on your Doorstep"
- Beech Grove Residents Springwell Village Washington
- Ski View Allotments
- Holmlands Park Residents
- Burnside Community Allotment
- Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park
- Seldom Seen Doorstop Green Springwell Village – Washington
- Rectory Park Friends Group
- Washington Community Resource Centre Allotment
- Washington Community Allotment – Concord

Councillor Mordey was also delighted to announce that Sunderland was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom 2014 National Finalist Winner – in the Best Large City the United Kingdom category and a Gold Award and a trophy was presented.

Reception of Petitions

29. RESOLVED that the petitions listed below, submitted by the following Councillors, be received and referred for the consideration of the relevant Chief Officer, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme: -

Councillor D. Snowdon – Petition regarding resurfacing of the road at Briarfield, Fatfield, Washington – Deputy Chief Executive

Councillor D. Trueman – Petition regarding the trees surrounding Blencathra in Washington causing a nuisance problem to the residents of the estate – Deputy Chief Executive

Councillor Taylor – Petition regarding public access between Moorsfield and Mulberry Park and the Harwood Drive accesses – Deputy Chief Executive

Councillor Allan – Petition regarding fast moving traffic on Simonside Road – Deputy Chief Executive

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Copeland, D. Dixon, Ellis, Farr, Price, Scaplehorn, Wakefield, Waller, T. Wright and the Honorary Alderman M. Smith and J. Walker.

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2014/2015

That they had given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive on the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2014/2015 to be used by the Public Protection and Regulatory Services section of the Street Scene service, the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and to seek approval of the Plan.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee was satisfied with the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2014/2015 and supported the Cabinet recommendation to submit the Service Plan to Council for approval.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2014/2015.

2. Capital Programme Second Review 2014/2015 (including Treasury Management)

That they had given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources on the Capital Programme Second Review 2014/2015 including Treasury Management which set out: -

- Reprofiting of projects since the First Capital Review for 2014/2015 as approved in June 2014;
- The inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2014/2015 since the First Capital Review was reported;
- The inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing beyond 2014/2015 since the First Capital Review was reported; and
- The progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/2015.

In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, Cabinet may authorise variations to the Capital Programme provided such variations were within available resources and consistent with Council policy.

Appendix A of the report set out the relevant extracts from the Cabinet Report which outlined the additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000 in 2014/2015 and future years.

Cabinet referred the relevant extracts to the Scrutiny Committee to note the proposed variation to the Capital Programme for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000. The Scrutiny Committee noted the report, being satisfied with the proposed variation to the Capital Programme.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to note the proposed variation to the Capital Programme for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 to include additional schemes with an estimated cost in excess of £250,000.

3. Revenue Budget Second Review 2014/2015

That they had given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources on the overall Revenue position following the second review for 2014/2015 including proposed contingency transfers for the second quarter of 2014/2015.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework certain transfers required Council approval. The following extract referred to those transfer of funds: -

"Savings on capital financing charges as a result of slippage on the capital programme and income from interest on investments were anticipated to result in planned savings of approximately £4.0m at year end. It was proposed that these amounts and any further underspendings arising from unspent contingencies at the end of 2014/2015 were earmarked to support the overall 2014/2015 position and transitional costs arising from the 2015/2016 budget setting process".

They also referred the above extract of the budget transfers to the Scrutiny Committee, for advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee supported the transfer of funds to support the overall 2014/2015 position together with the transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process and supported the Cabinet recommendation that the transfer be submitted to Council for approval.

They also referred the above extract of the budget transfers to the Scrutiny Committee, for advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee supported the transfer of funds to support the overall 2014/2015 position together with the transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process and supported the Cabinet recommendation that the transfer be submitted to Council for approval.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to approve the contingency transfers as set out in the above extract.

4. Budget Planning Framework 2015/2016 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/2016 – 2017/2018

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Resources outlining the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and sets out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2015/2016 and the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/2016 to 2017/2018.

They had also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its comments in the context of the approved consultation arrangements for the Council's budget. The Scrutiny Committee was satisfied with the information provided and supported the Cabinet recommendation that the proposed Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Strategy were submitted to Council for approval.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to: -

- (i) Approve the proposed Budget Planning Framework summarised at Section 11 of the report which would guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2015/2016; and
- (ii) Note that the full Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 would be presented to Cabinet in February.

Annual Audit Letter 2013/2014

That they had submitted for consideration by Council a report of the Head of Financial Resources on the Annual Audit Letter from the external Auditors Mazars, covering the year 2013/2014 together with a copy of the Audit Letter which summarised findings from the audit of the Council's financial statements and the results of the external auditor's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in its use of resources.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to note the contents of the report.

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

That they had given consideration to a report of the Chief Executive on the draft proposals for the statutory review of polling districts and polling places.

The Cabinet recommended the Council: -

- (i) To note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for Sunderland City Council;
- (ii) To note the final proposals in respect of the review;
- (iii) To adopt parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the report;
- (iv) To adopt the scheme contained in Appendix 3 in relation to local government elections;
- (v) That the Electoral Registration Officer be requested to make the necessary amendments to polling districts for the register of electors published on 1 December 2014;
- (vi) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review in consultation with ward councillors and portfolio member; and
- (vii) That the Electoral Registration Officer create fixed boundaries within local government wards for each polling district.

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

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

30. RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet 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.

Councillor H. Trueman, duly seconded, moved an extension to the time for responding to Written Questions which was agreed.

Notices of Motion

The Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Speding, moved the following motion:-

‘This Council recognises that firefighters across Tyne and Wear do a brave and heroic job and should be rewarded for this service to the public, and that this Council condemns the Tory led Coalition Government for refusing to negotiate a fair, proper and reflective Pension Scheme.’

Councillor L. Martin, duly seconded by Councillor Wiper proposed the following amendment:-

Insert “appropriately” before “rewarded”.

Delete “,” after “service to the public” and insert “.”.

Delete “and this” and replace with “Furthermore”.

Delete “condemns the Tory led Coalition Government for refusing to negotiate a” and replace with “recognises the need for the service pension scheme to be”.

Delete “reflective Pension Scheme” and replace with “affordable”.

So that the amended motion reads:-

‘This Council recognises that firefighters across Tyne and Wear do a brave and heroic job and should be appropriately rewarded for this service to the public. Furthermore, this Council recognises the need for the service pension scheme to be fair, proper and affordable’.

Upon being put to a vote by a show of hands the amendment was defeated with 8 Members voting in favour, viz:-

M. Dixon
Francis

Forbes
Howe

Leadbitter
L. Martin

Wiper
Wood

53 Members voting against, viz:

The Mayor (Councillor Porthouse) in the Chair.

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Scott	Walker
	Allen	Gibson, P.	Shattock	Watson, P.
	Anderson	Gofton	Smith, D	Watson, S.
	Atkinson	Jackson	Smith, P	Williams
	Ball	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, A
	Bell	Kelly	Snowdon, D.E	Wilson, D.
	Cummings	Lauchlan	Speding	Wright, N.
	Davison	Lawson	Stewart	

Emerson	McClennan	Taylor
Errington	MacKnight	Thompson
Essl	Marshall	Trueman, D.
Farthing	Martin, T	Trueman, H.
Fletcher	Miller, F	Turton, M
Foster	Miller, G	Turton, W
Galbraith	Mordey	Tye

And no Members abstaining.

Therefore the original motion was put to vote and was carried with 53 Members voting in favour and one Member voting against, viz:

The Mayor (Councillor Porthouse) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Gibson, E	Scott	Walker
	Allen	Gibson, P.	Shattock	Watson, P.
	Anderson	Gofton	Smith, D	Watson, S.
	Atkinson	Jackson	Smith, P	Williams
	Ball	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, A
	Bell	Kelly	Snowdon, D.E	Wilson, D.
	Cummings	Lauchlan	Speding	Wright, N.
	Davison	Lawson	Stewart	
	Emerson	McClennan	Taylor	
	Errington	MacKnight	Thompson	
	Essl	Marshall	Trueman, D.	
	Farthing	Martin, T	Trueman, H.	
	Fletcher	Miller, F	Turton, M	
	Foster	Miller, G	Turton, W	
	Galbraith	Mordey	Tye	

1 Member voting against, viz:-

Kay

And no Members abstaining.

Accordingly it was:-

31. RESOLVED that this Council recognises that firefighters across Tyne and Wear do a brave and heroic job and should be rewarded for this service to the public, and that this Council condemns the Tory led Coalition Government for refusing to negotiate a fair, proper and reflective Pension Scheme.

Quarterly Reports 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.

32. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Appointments – Association of the Friends of Sunderland Museums and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report asking Members to consider appointments to the Association of the Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSuMs) and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

33. RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) Appoint a Member to serve as an alternate to the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Portfolio Holder on the Friends of Sunderland Museums; and
- (ii) Appoint a Majority Party Member to the Fire Authority to serve until the next Annual Council meeting.

(Signed) S. PORTHOUSE
Mayor