

# ***Minutes***

## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on  
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 4.00 pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor D. Snowdon) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor H. Trueman)

Councillors	Armstrong	Foster	Mann	Snowdon, D.E.
	Atkinson	Francis	Marshall	Stewart
	Blackburn	Haswell	McClennan	Taylor
	Blackett	Heron	McDonough	Thornton
	Butler	Hodson	McKeith	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Howe	Miller, F.	Tye
	Crosby	Hunt	Miller, G.	Walker, G.
	Cunningham	Jackson	Mordey	Walker, P.
	Davison	Jenkins	Mullen	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Johnston	O'Brien	Watson
	Dixon, M.	Kelly	Oliver	Williams
	Doyle	Lauchlan	Potts	Wilson, D.
	Essl	Lawson	Rowntree	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Leadbitter	Scanlan	Wood, K.
	Farthing	MacKnight, D.	Scullion	Wood, P.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N	Smith, P	

### Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Minutes

18. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 June 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 8 – Report of the Cabinet	Councillor Lawson	Chair of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee Chair of Sunderland Care and Support
Item 9 – Written Questions	Councillor P. Wood	Chair of the Board of Compass Community Transport

## **Announcements**

### **(i) Former Mayor of Sunderland, Brian Dodds**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor referred Council to the recent deaths of former Mayor of Sunderland, Mr Brian Dodds and that of Mr Brynley Sidaway, former Leader of the Council.

Brian Dodds was first elected to the Council in 1970 representing Humbledon and later represented Ryhope, Fulwell and Pallion Wards. He became Deputy Mayor in May 1999 and then served as Mayor of the City in 2000-2001.

Bryn Sidaway represented the Hendon Ward from 1983 until 1999 and from 2003 until 2008. He was Leader of the Council from May 1994 until May 1999.

The Mayor invited Council to join him in standing for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleagues.

## **Reception of Petitions**

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

Councillor Mann – Petition from residents of Mayfield Road requesting the Council to examine the general condition of the private residential street, Mayfield Road, specifically garages adjacent to No. 16 and condition of the road and footpath surfaces.

Councillor F. Miller – Petition from residents of Fatfield in relation to the use of the car park on Shepherd's Way, grazing animals and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Cunningham – Petition from residents of Hetton Downs requesting the Council to install a barrier next to the 'News N' Booze' off-licence on the A182.

Councillor McKeith – Petition from residents near Roker Park requesting the Council to take action in response to anti-social behaviour and arson incidents in the park and make arrangements to secure the park at night.

Councillor Haswell – Petition from residents of Pallion Ward requesting the Council to take action to install traffic calming measures to reduce the speed on Saint Luke's Road.

Councillors Chequer, Samuels and Butler – Petition from residents of Southwick Ward requesting the Council to upgrade the Thompson Road/Carley Road junction on the grounds of safety.

## **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bewick, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Greener, Samuels, Scaplehorn, G. Smith, Speding, Turner and A. Wilson together with Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Tate.

## **Written Questions under Rule 9**

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

## **Report of the Cabinet**

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

### **1. City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030”**

That at its meeting held on 16 July, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of People, Communications and Partnerships (copy report attached) on the City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” which outlined the Council’s overarching strategic plan for the period 2019/2020 to 2029/2030.

The Draft City Plan covers:-

- The key Challenges facing Sunderland
- A Vision for the city and Values for the council which provide the focus for the council’s activity in respect of addressing those Challenges and other key issues for the city
- Three Key Themes – Dynamic City, Healthy City and Vibrant City - which are used to organise the council’s aims in respect of the Challenges and the other key issues
- Five Commitments for each Key Theme under which the council’s Activities in respect of addressing the Challenges and the other key issues are aligned
- A Timeline of Activities illustrating the council’s actions across all of the Key Themes for the years 2019-2020 to 2024-2025 and the five-year period 2025-2030

The Cabinet noted the contents of the report and the City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” (attached) and as an Article 4 Plan it was referred to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for further advice and consideration prior to recommending it to Council for approval.

Members noted that the version of the Timeline accompanying the report had been updated since the original presentation of the City Plan to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 14 March 2019 and Cabinet on 16 July 2019 (copy of City Plan with revised timeline attached).

The Cabinet was advised that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee had requested that a decision on the City Plan 'Sunderland 2019-2030' be deferred by Cabinet and Council to allow the Committee further opportunity to consider the amended timeline.

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee would like to gain a better understanding as to the reasons that have resulted in amendments to the City Plan timeline before making any final comments to Cabinet and Council.

Accordingly, it was therefore recommended that the City Plan (as an Article 4 Plan under the Constitution) be deferred pending the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's further consideration of the Plan.

## **2. Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2018 – March 2019**

That they would be giving consideration to a report of the Strategic Director of People, Communications and Partnerships (copy attached) on the Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2018 – March 2019. The report gave an overview of the management of health and safety at work within the Council.

The Cabinet having noted the content of the Annual Health and Safety Report: April 2018 – March 2019, it recommended that Council noted the report for information.

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

The approval and adoption of the Cabinet report was agreed:-

Accordingly it was:-

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

## **Written Questions under Rule 10.2**

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

Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 21 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Armstrong	Francis	Leadbitter	O'Brien
	Blackett	Haswell	Mann	Oliver
	Crosby	Hodson	McDonough	Potts
	Dixon, M	Howe	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Jenkins	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Fagan			

And 39 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Atkinson	Foster	Marshall	Thornton
	Butler	Heron	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Hunt	Mordey	Tye
	Chequer	Jackson	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Cunningham	Johnston	Scanlan	Walker, P.
	Davison	Kelly	Scullion	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Lauchlan	Smith, P.	Watson
	Essl	McClennan	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Farthing	MackKnight, D.	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Fletcher	MackKnight, N.	Taylor	

**Councillor Dr Walker informed the meeting that the vote at position number 12 in the Council chamber had not recorded.**

### **Action on Petitions**

The Council received and noted the report below which detailed the action taken in relation to the following petitions which had been presented to the Council at its meeting held on 19 June 2019.

- (i) Petition by residents of Mount Grove, Chatsworth Crescent, Chatsworth Crescent South and Westfield Court, Sunderland requesting resurfacing of the above named roads and for yellow lines at the junction with Mount Road - Presented by Councillor Greener on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

The Assistant Director of Infrastructure, Planning and Transportation, following consultation with the Member with Portfolio for Environment and Transport and the Ward Councillors had declined the petitioners' request. However it should be noted that a section of Mount Grove was already included in this year's Highway Maintenance Programme and that the resurfacing of Chatsworth Street South and Westfield Court would be considered for inclusion in the 2020-21 Highway Maintenance Programme. A review into the provision of yellow lines at the junctions with Mount Road was expected in the next 12 months. The lead petitioner had been informed of the above decision.

- (ii) Petition by the residents of Thornhill Terrace that the proposed highway maintenance scheme for Thornhill Terrace will protect the existing flagstones and kerbs - Presented by Councillor Hodson on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

The Assistant Director of Infrastructure, Planning and Transportation, following consultation with the Member with Portfolio for Environment and Transport and the Ward Councillors had upheld the petitioner's request. The maintenance scheme which was due for completion in early September would include the retention where possible of the existing kerbs and flagstones. A date for the resurfacing of the road had still to be programmed. Councillor Hodson had been informed of the decision.

## Notices of Motion

### (i) **Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism**

Councillor McDonough, duly seconded by Councillor M. Dixon, moved the following motion:-

“Reported incidents of antisemitic hate crimes in the UK have risen year after year since 2015. More than 100 incidents of anti-semitism occur each month, including verbal abuse, social media harassment and physical assault. In 2018, there were 78 separate incidents of Jewish owned properties being desecrated.

Sunderland Council condemns these incidents. It resolves to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism and implement its adoption in the following ways:

- To include a copy of the Working Definition and its examples in newly elected members' induction packs;
- To introduce the Working Definition and its examples at the equality and diversity session included in members' training and in equivalent sessions provided for Sunderland City Council employees;
- To email all elected members and Council employees before the end of October 2019 with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To introduce a reference to the Working Definition in the Members Code of Conduct and equivalent Council staff policies and ensure that any complaints of anti-semitism made against elected members or Council employees are investigated in accordance with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To ensure that the Council observes any official changes the IHRA makes to its Working Definition and/or examples and implements those changes within its own practices (defined above).”

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, duly seconded by the Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

To insert, after the last bullet point, the following:-

“In addition, this council notes the alarming rise in Hate Crime across the board in the UK; particularly Islamophobic hate crime, but also, worrying rises in LGBT+, transphobic and disability hate crime.

Sunderland City Council condemns all forms of hate crime and calls upon all public figures to be mindful of the language they use in our national public discourse.

This council resolves to ensure that in addition to anti-Semitism, awareness of all forms of hate crime are included within its members induction programme and staff policies.”

So the amended motion would read:-

“Reported incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes in the UK have risen year after year since 2015. More than 100 incidents of anti-Semitism occur each month, including verbal abuse, social media harassment and physical assault. In 2018, there were 78 separate incidents of Jewish owned properties being desecrated.

Sunderland Council condemns these incidents. It resolves to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism and implement its adoption in the following ways:

- To include a copy of the Working Definition and its examples in newly Elected Members' induction packs;
- To introduce the Working Definition and its examples at the equality and diversity session included in Members' training and in equivalent sessions provided for Sunderland City Council employees;
- To email all Elected Members and Council employees before the end of October 2019 with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To introduce a reference to the Working Definition in the Members Code of Conduct and equivalent Council staff policies and ensure that any complaints of anti-Semitism made against elected Members or Council employees are investigated in accordance with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To ensure that the Council observes any official changes the IHRA makes to its Working Definition and/or examples and implements those changes within its own practices (defined above).

In addition, this council notes the alarming rise in Hate Crime across the board in the UK; particularly Islamophobic hate crime, but also, worrying rises in LGBT+, transphobic and disability hate crime.

Sunderland City Council condemns all forms of hate crime and calls upon all public figures to be mindful of the language they use in our national public discourse.

This council resolves to ensure that in addition to anti-Semitism, awareness of all forms of hate crime are included within its Members' induction programme and staff policies.”

The amendment to the motion having been unanimously agreed, it was:-

21. RESOLVED that:-

Reported incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes in the UK have risen year after year since 2015. More than 100 incidents of anti-Semitism occur each month, including verbal abuse, social media harassment and physical assault. In 2018, there were 78 separate incidents of Jewish owned properties being desecrated.



Sunderland Council condemns these incidents. It resolves to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism and implement its adoption in the following ways:

- To include a copy of the Working Definition and its examples in newly Elected Members' induction packs;
- To introduce the Working Definition and its examples at the equality and diversity session included in Members' training and in equivalent sessions provided for Sunderland City Council employees;
- To email all Elected Members and Council employees before the end of October 2019 with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To introduce a reference to the Working Definition in the Members Code of Conduct and equivalent Council staff policies and ensure that any complaints of anti-Semitism made against elected Members or Council employees are investigated in accordance with the Working Definition and its examples;
- To ensure that the Council observes any official changes the IHRA makes to its Working Definition and/or examples and implements those changes within its own practices (defined above).

In addition, this council notes the alarming rise in Hate Crime across the board in the UK; particularly Islamophobic hate crime, but also, worrying rises in LGBT+, transphobic and disability hate crime.

Sunderland City Council condemns all forms of hate crime and calls upon all public figures to be mindful of the language they use in our national public discourse.

This council resolves to ensure that in addition to anti-Semitism, awareness of all forms of hate crime are included within its Members' induction programme and staff policies.

## **(ii) The Start Time of Future Planning and Highways meetings**

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

“Sharon Hodgson MP recently criticised the 4.30 pm start time of a Planning and Highways meeting, suggesting that it was difficult for working people to attend. Council acknowledges Mrs Hodgson's point, made on behalf of residents of Washington relating to the incinerator vote, and resolves to commence all future Planning and Highways meetings at 6 pm.”

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

After:-

“Council acknowledges Mrs Hodgson's point, made on behalf of residents of Washington relating to the incinerator vote, and resolves to commence all future”

Leave out:-

“Planning and Highways meetings at 6 pm”

And insert:-

“meetings which the public can attend at 6 pm”

So the amended motion would read:-

“Sharon Hodgson MP recently criticised the 4.30 pm start time of a Planning and Highways meeting, suggesting that it was difficult for working people to attend. Council acknowledges Mrs Hodgson’s point, made on behalf of residents of Washington relating to the incinerator vote, and resolves to commence all future meetings which the public can attend at 6 pm.”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 20 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Blackett	Francis	Leadbitter	O'Brien
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Oliver
	Dixon, M	Hodson	McDonough	Potts
	Doyle	Howe	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Jenkins	Mullen	Wood, P.

One abstention:-

Councillor Armstrong

And 41 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	Marshall	Taylor
	Butler	Hunt	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Blackburn	Jackson	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Johnston	Morley	Tye
	Cunningham	Kelly	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Davison	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Scullion	Watson
	Essl	McClennan	Smith, P.	Williams
	Farthing	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N.	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Foster			

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was defeated with 20 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Blackett	Francis	Leadbitter	O'Brien
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Oliver
	Dixon, M	Hodson	McDonough	Potts
	Doyle	Howe	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Jenkins	Mullen	Wood, P.

One abstention:-

Councillor Armstrong

And 41 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	Marshall	Taylor
	Butler	Hunt	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Blackburn	Jackson	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Johnston	Mordey	Tye
	Cunningham	Kelly	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Davison	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Scullion	Watson
	Essl	McClennan	Smith, P.	Williams
	Farthing	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N.	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Foster			

### **(iii) Developing a Community Engagement Strategy**

The Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, duly seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved the following motion:-

“This council believes:

That to achieve its vision of becoming a truly Dynamic, Healthy and Vibrant City it needs to take steps to work with residents in our local communities to ensure they are fully engaged in developing future service delivery.

That only through working together we can ensure that quality services are delivered both at a City level and on a local level.

By increasing community engagement and participation this council also believes we can develop more resilient communities, bringing people together to make a difference by helping them to do more for themselves and others so that their local community and neighbourhoods can thrive.

This council therefore:

Calls upon the Chief Executive to bring forward proposals for developing a proactive community engagement strategy for the city and in doing so look at the feasibility of:

- Delegating more powers and responsibilities to Area Committees to run more services locally; as part of a programme of devolving responsibilities away from the Civic Centre.
- Devolving some decision making and scrutiny of services to residents themselves, allowing the council to work with them on improving their local neighbourhoods.

- Reviewing how residents can become empowered to develop and deliver on local projects and ideas within their community; in addition to becoming more involved in strategic planning of council services.
- Ensure a more robust communication strategy is in place with local communities so residents are aware of the activities of the council that impact on them and their local community, but importantly the part they can then play in reviewing and improving service delivery.”

The motion having been unanimously agreed, it was:-

22. RESOLVED that:-

This council believes:

That to achieve its vision of becoming a truly Dynamic, Healthy and Vibrant City it needs to take steps to work with residents in our local communities to ensure they are fully engaged in developing future service delivery.

That only through working together we can ensure that quality services are delivered both at a City level and on a local level.

By increasing community engagement and participation this council also believes we can develop more resilient communities, bringing people together to make a difference by helping them to do more for themselves and others so that their local community and neighbourhoods can thrive.

This council therefore:

Calls upon the Chief Executive to bring forward proposals for developing a proactive community engagement strategy for the city and in doing so look at the feasibility of:

- Delegating more powers and responsibilities to Area Committees to run more services locally; as part of a programme of devolving responsibilities away from the Civic Centre.
- Devolving some decision making and scrutiny of services to residents themselves, allowing the council to work with them on improving their local neighbourhoods.
- Reviewing how residents can become empowered to develop and deliver on local projects and ideas within their community; in addition to becoming more involved in strategic planning of council services.
- Ensure a more robust communication strategy is in place with local communities so residents are aware of the activities of the council that impact on them and their local community, but importantly the part they can then play in reviewing and improving service delivery.

#### **(iv) Appointment of Future Mayors and Deputy Mayors**

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

“This Council resolves to appoint future mayors and deputy mayors in proportion to the political composition of the council sharing the appointments among the political groups.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 14 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Francis	Mann	Mullen
	Blackett	Howe	McDonough	Oliver
	Dixon, M	Jenkins	McKeith	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Leadbitter		

And 47 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Haswell	Marshall	Thornton
	Butler	Heron	Miller, F.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Hodson	Miller, G.	Tye
	Crosby	Hunt	Mordey	Walker, G.
	Cunningham	Jackson	O'Brien	Walker, P.
	Davison	Johnston	Potts	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Kelly	Rowntree	Watson
	Essl	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Williams
	Fagan	Lawson	Scullion	Wilson, D.
	Farthing	McClennan	Smith, P.	Wood, A.
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, K.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Stewart	

#### **(v) Climate Crisis**

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

“Sunderland council led the way by being the first in North East to declare a climate emergency. This is a recognition that the climate crisis is the biggest threat to the well-being and economic prosperity of the city and urgent action is needed.

Sunderland council can also lead the way by being the most open and responsive in reacting to the declaration and putting the climate crisis on the agenda of every council meeting.

Therefore, we call upon the cabinet to present and discuss a summary of progress at full council meetings for the foreseeable future.”

The motion having been unanimously agreed, it was:-

23. RESOLVED that:-

Sunderland council led the way by being the first in North East to declare a climate emergency. This is a recognition that the climate crisis is the biggest threat to the well-being and economic prosperity of the city and urgent action is needed.

Sunderland council can also lead the way by being the most open and responsive in reacting to the declaration and putting the climate crisis on the agenda of every council meeting.

Therefore, we call upon the cabinet to present and discuss a summary of progress at full council meetings for the foreseeable future.

**(vi) School Uniforms**

Councillor O'Brien, duly seconded by Councillor Haswell, moved the following motion:-

"School uniforms are a common requirement in education and provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion in schools. They also have a positive influence on behaviour and discipline within school and remove the peer pressure to dress following fashions and reduce inequalities between pupils.

The cost of a school uniform can also be a financial burden on parents, especially where schools have complicated requirements or restrict where uniforms can be purchased.

The costs of school uniforms represent a significant financial challenge for parents and pupils, especially those on low incomes. Costs can result in parents being unable to provide their children with a full school uniform or rely on purchasing ill-fitting oversized clothes. Whilst acknowledging the good work of community groups offering a uniform exchange, parents and pupils also can experience stigma through being forced to rely on second hand clothing.

This council notes that:

- The Department for Education 2015 'Cost of School Uniform' report noted the average cost of school uniform as being £212.88 per pupil (excluding costs of PE kit).
- The Children's Society reports in 2015 & 2018 'The Wrong Blazer' highlighted concerns about the costs of school uniform (up to £340.00 per year), particularly where parents were required to buy from a specialist retailer.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Explore the development of a scheme to provide funding for school uniform grants for parents on the lowest incomes. Report on a scheme to be prepared in advance of the 2020/2021 school year to support parents in covering the cost of school uniforms.
- Encourage schools in Sunderland, Houghton, Hetton and Washington to consider ensuring that school uniform requirements are not over complicated and restrict where they can be purchased. Guidance will be shared which includes:
  - Only stipulate basic items and colours but not styles so that items can be bought from multiple retail chains at reasonable prices and not just from one authorised supplier.
  - Avoid high cost items such as blazers and caps.
  - Have easily washable items: dry clean only items should be avoided.
  - If there are any differences in the school uniform and appearance policies between sexes/ genders, these should be justified and clearly stated in the policy.
  - School governing bodies should have a sensible, flexible approach to uniform items to account for extreme weather conditions.
  - Limit the frequency of uniform changes as this can be costly for parents and limits the scope for re-sale or handing on to siblings or other pupils.”

During the discussion on the motion it was moved by the Leader, Councillor G. Miller and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey that the meeting be adjourned until 2.00 p.m. the following day for consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was agreed with 40 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	Marshall	Thornton
	Butler	Hunt	Miller, F.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Jackson	Miller, G.	Tye
	Cunningham	Johnston	Mordey	Walker, G.
	Davison	Kelly	Rowntree	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Waller
	Essl	Lawson	Scullion	Watson
	Farthing	McClennan	Smith, P.	Williams
	Fletcher	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, D.
	Foster	MacKnight, N.	Stewart	Wood, K.

And 20 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Francis	Leadbitter	O'Brien
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Oliver
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	McDonough	Potts
	Doyle	Howe	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Jenkins	Mullen	Wood, P.

24. RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 19 September 2019, to consider the remaining items of business on the agenda.

The meeting was reconvened on Thursday 19 September 2019 with the following Members present:-

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor D. Snowdon) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor H. Trueman)

Councillors	Atkinson	Francis	McDonough	Stewart
	Blackburn	Heron	McKeith	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Jackson	Miller, F.	Turner
	Crosby	Johnston	Miller, G.	Tye
	Davison	Kelly	Mordey	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Mullen	Walker, P.
	Dixon, M.	Leadbitter	O'Brien	Watson
	Doyle	MackKnight, D.	Oliver	Williams
	Essl	MackKnight, N	Scanlan	Wilson, D.
	Farthing	Mann	Scullion	Wood, A.
	Fletcher	Marshall	Smith, P	Wood, K.
	Foster	McClennan	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, P.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the re-convened meeting on behalf of Councillors Armstrong, Bewick, Blackett, Butler, Cunningham, Fagan, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Greener, Haswell, Hodson, Howe, Jenkins, Lauchlan, Potts, Rowntree, Samuels, Scaplehorn, G. Smith, Speding, Taylor, Thornton and A. Wilson together with Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Tate.

### **Notices of Motion**

#### **(vi) School Uniforms (continued)**

The motion having been unanimously agreed, it was:-

#### **25. RESOLVED that:-**

School uniforms are a common requirement in education and provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion in schools. They also have a positive influence on behaviour and discipline within school and remove the peer pressure to dress following fashions and reduce inequalities between pupils.

The cost of a school uniform can also be a financial burden on parents, especially where schools have complicated requirements or restrict where uniforms can be purchased.

The costs of school uniforms represent a significant financial challenge for parents and pupils, especially those on low incomes. Costs can result in parents being unable to provide their children with a full school uniform or rely on purchasing ill-fitting oversized clothes. Whilst acknowledging the good work of community groups offering a uniform exchange, parents and pupils also can experience stigma through being forced to rely on second hand clothing.



This council notes that:

- The Department for Education 2015 'Cost of School Uniform' report noted the average cost of school uniform as being £212.88 per pupil (excluding costs of PE kit).
- The Children's Society reports in 2015 & 2018 'The Wrong Blazer' highlighted concerns about the costs of school uniform (up to £340.00 per year), particularly where parents were required to buy from a specialist retailer.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Explore the development of a scheme to provide funding for school uniform grants for parents on the lowest incomes. Report on a scheme to be prepared in advance of the 2020/2021 school year to support parents in covering the cost of school uniforms.
- Encourage schools in Sunderland, Houghton, Hetton and Washington to consider ensuring that school uniform requirements are not over complicated and restrict where they can be purchased. Guidance will be shared which includes:
  - Only stipulate basic items and colours but not styles so that items can be bought from multiple retail chains at reasonable prices and not just from one authorised supplier.
  - Avoid high cost items such as blazers and caps.
  - Have easily washable items: dry clean only items should be avoided.
  - If there are any differences in the school uniform and appearance policies between sexes/ genders, these should be justified and clearly stated in the policy.
  - School governing bodies should have a sensible, flexible approach to uniform items to account for extreme weather conditions.
  - Limit the frequency of uniform changes as this can be costly for parents and limits the scope for re-sale or handing on to siblings or other pupils.

#### **(vii) The UK's Exit from the EU**

Councillor Doyle, duly seconded by Councillor McDonough, moved the following motion:-

"This Council acknowledges that Sunderland voted to leave the European Union in 2016 and calls upon the City's three MPs to honour this result by facilitating the UK's exit from the EU."

The Leader, duly seconded by Councillor Johnston, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

To insert a full stop after "voted to leave the European Union in 2016."

To insert a new paragraph:-

“Furthermore, this Council acknowledges that both the Conservative and Labour parties gave a commitment to the British public at the 2017 General Election to leave the EU with a deal.”

To delete the words “and calls” and replace with “We therefore call...”

And after EU add the words “with a deal.”

So that the amended motion would read:-

“This Council acknowledges that Sunderland voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

Furthermore, this Council acknowledges that both the Conservative and Labour parties gave a commitment to the British public at the 2017 General Election to leave the EU with a deal.

We therefore call upon our City’s three MPs to honour both of those results by facilitating the UK’s exit from the EU with a deal.”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried unanimously with 45 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	McDonough	Snowdon, D.E.
	Blackburn	Jackson	McKeith	Stewart
	Chequer	Johnston	Miller, F.	Turner
	Crosby	Kelly	Miller, G.	Walker, G.
	Davison	Lawson	Mordey	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Leadbitter	Mullen	Watson
	Dixon, M.	MacKnight, D.	O’Brien	Williams
	Doyle	MacKnight, N	Oliver	Wilson, D.
	Farthing	Mann	Scanlan	Wood, A.
	Fletcher	Marshall	Scullion	Wood, K.
	Foster	McClennan	Smith, P	Wood, P.
	Francis			

And no Members voting against.

Councillor O’Brien, duly seconded by Councillor A. Wood, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

After:-

“We therefore call upon our City’s three MPs to honour both of those results by facilitating the UK’s exit from the EU with a deal.”

Insert:-

“That earlier this month the Government suspended Parliament, effectively ending scrutiny and oversight of its plans to exit the EU. This Council also acknowledges that this suspension of Parliament has been ruled unlawful in the Courts in Scotland, and is currently being heard in the Supreme Court.

Accordingly, Council calls upon the City’s three MPS to lobby the Government urgently to recall Parliament.”

So the amended motion would read:-

“This Council acknowledges that Sunderland voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

Furthermore, this Council acknowledges that both the Conservative and Labour parties gave a commitment to the British public at the 2017 General Election to leave the EU with a deal.

We therefore call upon our City’s three MPs to honour both of those results by facilitating the UK’s exit from the EU with a deal.

That earlier this month the Government suspended Parliament, effectively ending scrutiny and oversight of its plans to exit the EU. This Council also acknowledges that this suspension of Parliament has been ruled unlawful in the Courts in Scotland, and is currently being heard in the Supreme Court.

Accordingly, Council calls upon the City’s three MPS to lobby the Government urgently to recall Parliament.”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated with 3 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Crosby	O'Brien	Wood, A.
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And 37 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	McKeith	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Jackson	Miller, F.	Turner
	Chequer	Johnston	Miller, G.	Walker, G.
	Davison	Kelly	Mordey	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Mullen	Watson
	Dixon, M.	Leadbitter	Scullion	Williams
	Doyle	MackKnight, D.	Smith, P	Wilson, D.
	Farthing	MackKnight, N	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, K.
	Foster	McDonough	Stewart	Wood, P.
	Francis			

The Council having been reminded of the substantive motion which was agreed, it was accordingly:-

26. RESOLVED that:-

This Council acknowledges that Sunderland voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

Furthermore, this Council acknowledges that both the Conservative and Labour parties gave a commitment to the British public at the 2017 General Election to leave the EU with a deal.

We therefore call upon our City's three MPs to honour both of those results by facilitating the UK's exit from the EU with a deal.

**Report on Special Urgency Decisions**

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

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

27. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**Appointments to Outside Bodies**

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report to seek approval for the extension of the appointment of the Council's Independent Person.

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

28. RESOLVED that the period of appointment of Mr Dennis Hall as Independent Person, as set out in the report, be extended for an additional period of two years from 1 October 2019.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,  
Mayor.



