

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on
WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018 at 6.00pm

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

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Lawson	Taylor
	Allen	Foster	Marshall	Trueman, D
	Ball	Francis	McClennan	Trueman, H
	Beck	Galbraith, G	Middleton	Turner
	Bell	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Turton, M
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Mordey	Walker, G
	Chequer	Gibson, P	O'Brien	Walker, P
	Cummings	Gofton	Oliver	Waller
	Curran	Hodson	O'Neil	Waters
	Davison	Hunt	Porthouse	Watson, S
	Dixon, D	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Williams
	Dixon, M	Johnston	Scullion	Wilson, A
	English	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, D
	Essl	Kelly	Snowdon, D E	Wood
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Speding	Wright, T

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - R D Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

43. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 November 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

(i) Landscape Institute Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Speding informed Members that the Council had been awarded two 'Highly Commended' Certificates at the 2017 Landscape Institute Awards ceremony.

The certificates were awarded to Sunderland Seafront in the category of Adding Value by Design and Saint Peter's Church in the category of Heritage and Conservation. Councillor Speding stated that the awards marked the fruition of years of effort by the Landscape Design Services team on both projects and it was unprecedented for an in-house local authority team to achieve two commendations in one ceremony.

Reception of Petitions

44. 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 S Foster – Petition from residents of Hylton Castle opposing the granting of a license for selling alcohol to a shop in former Cauld Lad public house.

Councillor T Taylor – Petition of 365 signatures from residents of Barmston Village requesting that the Council review the status of the bus link to improve safety for pedestrians.

Councillor K Chequer – Petition from residents of Gildacre Fields in Southwick requesting the introduction of regular bus services from this new development to the city centre.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, Elliott, Heron, Howe, Leadbitter, F Miller, Smith, Stewart, W Turton and N Wright together with Honorary Alderman Greenfield.

Written Questions under Rule 9

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Council Rules of Procedure, a member of the public had submitted a question to the meeting.

The Mayor read the text of the question submitted by Heather Fagan and Councillor Miller provided the response.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

1. Council Tax Base 2017/2018

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommended 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; and
- (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 had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting that the Council continue with its Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2018/2019.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to: -

- (i) approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the main features of which, incorporating the proposed changes, were set out at Appendix A, for the financial year 2018/2019; 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.

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

45. 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 Oliver, seconded by Councillor Francis, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 7 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allen Dixon, M	Francis Hodson	O'Brien Oliver	Wood
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And 53 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Allan Ball Beck Bell Blackburn Chequer Cummings Curran Davison Dixon, D English Essl Farthing Fletcher	Foster Galbraith, G Galbraith, I Gibson, E Gofton Hunt Jackson Johnston Kay Kelly Lauchlan Lawson Marshall	McClennan Middleton Miller, G Mordey O'Neil Porthouse Scanlan Scaplehorn Scullion Snowdon, D Snowdon, D E Speding Taylor	Trueman, D Trueman, H Turner Turton, M Walker, G Walker, P Waller Waters Watson, S Williams Wilson, A Wilson, D Wright, T
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Notices of Motion

(i) Pest Control and Poison-Resistant Rats

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

"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."

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 7 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allen Dixon, M	Francis Hodson	O'Brien Oliver	Wood
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And 54 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Allan Ball Beck Bell Blackburn Chequer Cummings Curran Davison Dixon, D English Essl Farthing Fletcher	Foster Galbraith, G Galbraith, I Gibson, E Gibson, P Gofton Hunt Jackson Johnston Kay Kelly Lauchlan Lawson Marshall	McClennan Middleton Miller, G Mordey O'Neil Porthouse Scanlan Scaplehorn Scullion Snowdon, D Snowdon, D E Speding Taylor	Trueman, D Trueman, H Turner Turton, M Walker, G Walker, P Waller Waters Watson, S Williams Wilson, A Wilson, D Wright, T
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(ii) Litter in the City's Streets

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

"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."

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 4 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Dixon, M	Francis	Oliver	Wood
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And 55 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Allan Allen Ball Beck Bell Blackburn Chequer Cummings Curran	Fletcher Foster Galbraith, G Galbraith, I Gibson, E Gibson, P Gofton Hodson Hunt	Lawson Marshall McClennan Middleton Miller, G Mordey O'Brien O'Neil Porthouse	Speding Taylor Trueman, D Trueman, H Turner Turton, M Walker, G Walker, P Waters
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Davison	Jackson	Scanlan	Watson, S
Dixon, D	Johnston	Scaplehorn	Wilson, A
English	Kay	Scullion	Wilson, D
Essl	Kelly	Snowdon, D	Wright, T
Farthing	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D E	

(iii) East Coast Mainline

Councillor Mordey, duly seconded by Councillor Bell, moved the following motion: -

“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.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried with 54 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Marshall	Taylor
	Allen	Foster	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Ball	Galbraith, G	Middleton	Trueman, H
	Beck	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Turner
	Bell	Gibson, E	Mordey	Turton, M
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	O'Neil	Walker, G
	Chequer	Gofton	Porthouse	Walker, P
	Cummings	Hunt	Scanlan	Waters
	Curran	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Watson, S
	Davison	Johnston	Scullion	Williams
	Dixon, D	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, A
	English	Kelly	Snowdon, D E	Wilson, D
	Essl	Lauchlan	Speding	Wright, T
	Farthing	Lawson		

And 6 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Dixon, M	Hodson	Oliver	Wood
	Francis	O'Brien		

Accordingly it was: -

46. RESOLVED that: -

“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.”

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.

47. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments to a number of vacancies on outside bodies, in respect of positions which were held by the former Leader of the Council, Paul Watson.

The Council had also been advised that Councillor Kelly had tendered his resignation as an appointed Governor representative for the Council on the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust.

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

48. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the following appointments be made to Outside Bodies to be effective until the Annual Meeting of the Council 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 Partnership Board – Deputy Leader
 - Sunderland Partnership Non-Executive Board – Cabinet Secretary.

- (ii) it be noted that the Council was required to nominate an Appointed Governor Representative to the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and that this appointment would be made in due course.

(Signed) D MACKNIGHT
Mayor