

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018 at 6.00pm

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

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Lawson	Snowdon, DE
	Allen	Foster	Leadbitter	Speding
	Atkinson	Francis	Marshall	Taylor, A
	Ball	Galbraith, G	McClennan	Trueman, D
	Beck	Galbraith, I	Middleton	Trueman, H
	Bell	Gibson, E	Miller, F	Turner
	Blackburn	Gibson, P	Miller, G	Turton, M
	Cummings	Gofton	Mordey	Tye
	Curran	Haswell	O'Brien	Walker, G
	Dixon, D	Heron	Oliver	Walker, P
	Dixon, M	Hodson	O'Neil	Waller
	Elliott	Howe	Porthouse	Williams
	Emerson	Jackson	Scaplehorn	Wilson, A
	English	Johnston	Scullion	Wilson, D
	Essl	Kay	Smith	Wood
	Farthing	Lauchlan	Snowdon, D	Wright, N

Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman M Greenfield
RD Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

53. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 7 March 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the removal of Councillor Williams from the apologies for absence as she was in attendance at the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Announcements

(i) Sunderland University

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the University of Sunderland and its partners on their success in their bid to open a new school of medicine.

(ii) Councillor Wood

Councillors Francis and Dixon announced that Councillor Wood had first been elected to Council fifty years ago. In recognition of this achievement, Councillor Wood was congratulated and thanked for his extensive service to the Council and the residents of Sunderland and presented with a gift.

(iii) Retirement of Councillors

The Mayor advised that Councillors N. Wright, Gofton, Emerson, Cummings, and B. Turton would be retiring from office and not standing at the next Local Government Elections. On behalf of the Council, she expressed gratitude for their past service and wished them well for the future.

Reception of Petitions

54. 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 Curran – Petition from residents of Chillingham House and St. Peter's Riverside Estate which also included the National Glass Centre and North Sands Business Park, to have the 700 Bus re-routed to include Liberty Way.

The residents would also like consideration for the 700 bus to run along the A183 Dame Dorothy Street to the sea front.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chequer, Davison, Hunt, Kelly, Stewart, W. Turton, Waters and Watson together with Honorary Alderman Arnott and Forbes.

Written Questions under Rule 9

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Council Rules of Procedure, members of the public had submitted questions to the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Report of the Cabinet

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Pay Policy Statement 2018-2019

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval for publication, after agreement by Council, of the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19.

The Cabinet having approved the draft Pay Policy Statement recommended the draft statement to Council for adoption and publication by 31 March 2018.

2. Members' Allowances Scheme – 2018/2019

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Law and Governance on the members' allowances scheme for the next financial year and also on proposed changes in the arrangements for convening Independent Remuneration Panels.

The Independent Remuneration Panel had considered the number and level of allowances payable to Members. The Panel recommended that no changes be proposed to the scheme for 2018/2019.

In addition, with regard to the membership of the Panel, Cabinet had given consideration to a proposal that in future there be a pool from which Panel members may be drawn, in order to assist with succession planning and continuity, whilst also having the benefit of bringing a fresh perspective to bear.

The Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) approve the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Scheme for 2018/2019; and
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance, to appoint a pool of up to six individuals from whom an Independent Remuneration Panel of no less than three members may be drawn and to take all necessary action to appoint Panels and facilitate reviews of the members' allowances scheme.

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

Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved that the Cabinet report be subject to a recorded vote.

Upon being put to the vote, the Cabinet report was approved with 55 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Allan	Farthing	Leadbitter	Snowdon, D
	Allen	Fletcher	Marshall	Snowdon, DE
	Atkinson	Foster	McClennan	Speding
	Ball	Francis	Middleton	Taylor, A
	Beck	Galbraith, G	Miller, F	Trueman, H
	Bell	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Turner
	Blackburn	Gibson, E	Mordey	Walker, G
	Cummings	Gibson, P	Oliver	Walker, P
	Curran	Gofton	O'Neil	Waller
	Dixon, D	Howe	Porthouse	Wilson, A
	Dixon, M	Johnston	Scanlan	Wilson, D
	Elliott	Kay	Scaplehorn	Wood
	English	Lauchlan	Scullion	Wright, N
	Essl	Lawson	Smith	

And 3 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Haswell	Hodson	O'Brien
-------------	---------	--------	---------

Accordingly it was:-

55. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Scheme for 2018/2019 be approved; and
- (ii) the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to appoint a pool of up to six individuals from whom an Independent Remuneration Panel of no less than three members may be drawn and to take all necessary action to appoint Panels and facilitate reviews of the members' allowances scheme.

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

Notice of Motion

(i) Local Government Financial Crisis

Councillor H. Trueman, duly seconded by Councillor Farthing, moved the following motion:

“This Council notes with great concern that:

The National Audit Office has warned that many Councils’ are on the verge of insolvency, due in large part to cuts in central government funding of almost 50% in eight years.

Figures released by the NAO show that Councils’ financial positions have “worsened markedly” since the last audit in 2014, with 10% of councils likely to exhaust their reserves by 2020.

Therefore, this Council endorses, the call made by the Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter who has said: “The Government needs to urgently address this cliff-edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services.”

This Council resolves to:

Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand that the Government take urgent action to prevent a further worsening of the finance position within local government.

Furthermore, that they make emergency funding available to Councils so that they can “urgently address the cliff edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services.”

Upon being put to the vote the notice of motion was declared to be carried with 59 Members voting in favour:-

Allan	Francis	McClennan	Scullion
Allen	Galbraith, G	Miller, F	Smith
Atkinson	Galbraith, I	Miller, G	Speding
Ball	Gibson, E	Middleton	Trueman, D
Beck	Gibson, P	Mordey	Trueman, H
Bell	Gofton	O’Brien	Turner
Blackburn	Haswell	O’Neil	Tye
Curran	Hodson	Oliver	Walker, G
Dixon, D	Howe	Scullion	Walker, P
Dixon, M	Johnston	Smith	Waller
Elliott	Kay	Snowdon, D	Wilson, A
English	Lauchlan	Snowdon, DE	Wilson, D
Essl	Lawson	Porthouse	Wood
Farthing	Leadbitter	Scanlan	Wright, N
Fletcher	MacKnight	Scaplehorn	
Foster	Marshall		

Accordingly it was: -

56. RESOLVED that: -

“This Council notes with great concern that:

The National Audit Office has warned that many Councils’ are on the verge of insolvency, due in large part to cuts in central government funding of almost 50% in eight years.

Figures released by the NAO show that Councils’ financial positions have “worsened markedly” since the last audit in 2014, with 10% of councils likely to exhaust their reserves by 2020.

Therefore, this Council endorses, the call made by the Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Porter who has said: “The Government needs to urgently address this cliff-edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services.”

This Council resolves to:

Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand that the Government take urgent action to prevent a further worsening of the finance position within local government.

Furthermore, that they make emergency funding available to Councils so that they can “urgently address the cliff edge and the growing funding gaps facing local services.”

Update 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 had been no such instances since the last report.

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

57. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(Signed) D. MACKNIGHT,
Mayor