

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2019 at 4.00 pm

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

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

Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - Forbes
Greenfield

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 9 – Report of the Audit and Governance Committee	Councillor K. Wood	Employee of charity delivering first tier welfare rights advice contract
Item 12 – Motions on Notice – Fairer Funding Formula for TWFRS	Councillor Bewick	Employee of TWFRS

Item 12 – Motions on Notice – Abolition of Section 21 ‘No Fault’ Evictions	Councillor Blackburn Councillor Essl	Spouse is a landlord Council appointed Director – Gentoo Group Limited
Item 12 – Motions on Notice – Port Board : Independent Members	Councillor McClennan Councillor G. Smith	Member of the Port Board Member of the Port Board

Announcements

(i) Death of Former Councillor Mr Colin Wakefield

It was with sadness that the Deputy Mayor referred Council to the recent death of former Councillor, Mr. Colin Wakefield.

Colin Wakefield was first elected to the Council in 2007 representing Copt Hill until 2011 and was returned in May 2011 until May 2015 for a further term of office. During both periods of office he led a group of Independent Councillors and served on a number of committees.

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

(ii) Ministry of Defence Award

At the invitation of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mordey advised the Council that Sunderland City Council had received the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence. The award represents the highest badge of achievement for those that employ and support members of the Armed Forces, past and present, and their families.

The Deputy Mayor received the award on behalf of the Council.

Reception of Petitions

30. 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 Johnston – Petition from residents calling on the Council to repair the ground water leak coming from the telegraph pole on Voltage Terrace.

Councillor G. Miller – Petition from residents calling on the Council to place cameras along Sea Road to monitor any anti-social behaviour and safety of residents and traders.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Fagan, Farthing, Heron, Kelly, Leadbitter, Rowntree, Scaplehorn, Scullion, Snowdon, D., Snowdon, D.E., Speding, Walker, G., Wilson, A. and Wood, A. together with Alderman Arnott.

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” 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.

The report was considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 12 September 2019, at which time the Committee requested that the City Plan be deferred to allow further consideration of amendments made to the timeline. This was supported by Cabinet on 17 September 2019 and Council on 18 September 2019. As a result, the City Plan, including the amended timeline, was again considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee at its meeting on 10 October 2019.

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee was satisfied with the Final Draft City Plan having given further consideration to the amended timeline. The Committee will continue to receive updates on the City Plan ensuring that the plan remains a focus for the committee.

The Cabinet recommended that Council approve the City Plan as an Article 4 Plan under the Constitution.

2. Capital Programme Planning 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 and Capital Strategy

That Cabinet had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services which detailed

- an update on the level of capital resources and commitments for the forthcoming financial year within the current approved capital programme;
- additional capital new start project proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2020; and
- a recommendation to Council for the approval of the updated Council Capital Strategy.

The report was referred to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for further advice and consideration prior to recommending the Capital Strategy, as set out in the extract, to Council for approval.

The Cabinet were advised that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledged the capital programme and the capital strategy and barring further detail on specific projects, was satisfied with the programme as presented.

Accordingly, Cabinet recommended to Council that the updated Council Capital Strategy be approved.

3. Members' Allowances Scheme – 2020/2021

That at its meeting on 19 November, Cabinet considered the joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Assistant Director of Law and Governance on the members' allowances scheme for the next financial year.

The Independent Remuneration Panel considered the number and level of allowances currently paid to Members, together with proposals outlined by the Leader of the Council for changes to the Council's governance/committee structure, subject to approval where necessary, and submissions made by or on behalf of representatives of the political groups on the Council. The Panel's report was set out in the Appendix to the report.

The Cabinet recommended that Council approve the report and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the scheme for 2020/2021.

4. Revised Protocol for a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between Durham County Council, South Tyneside Council and Sunderland City Council

That Cabinet gave consideration to a joint report of the Strategic Director of People, Communications and Partnerships and Assistant Director of Law and Governance to set out for agreement a revised Protocol and Terms of Reference for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee which included representation from Durham County Council.

Following the formation of the South Tyneside and Sunderland Health Care Group and subsequent merger between South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust (South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust), in December 2016 Council agreed a Protocol and Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils to consider subsequent proposals for service changes as required by the Local Authorities (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 ("the Health Scrutiny Regulations").

The service change programme, *Path to Excellence*, has now entered its second phase with likely service changes not only affecting South Tyneside and Sunderland residents but also those of North Durham.

The Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) the revised Protocol and Terms of Reference for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Durham be approved (Appendix 1); and
- (ii) the Council's representatives to the Joint Committee remain as appointed.

5. Revised Protocol for Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

That Cabinet considered a joint report of the Strategic Director of People, Communications and Partnerships and Assistant Director of Law and Governance to set out a revised protocol and Terms of Reference to reflect the changes away from a Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships model to an Integrated Care System model.

The Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) the revised protocol and terms of reference for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee between Durham County Council; Gateshead Council; Newcastle City Council; North Tyneside Council; Northumberland County Council; South Tyneside Council and Sunderland City Council (Appendix 1&2) be approved;
- (ii) the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be known from this point forward as the Joint OSC for the North East and North Cumbria ICS and North and Central ICP's;
- (iii) the Council's representatives to the Joint Committee remain as appointed.

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

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Mullen, moved a reference back on Item 3 – Members' Allowance Scheme – 2020/2021.

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

Councillors	Blackett Dixon, M. Doyle Francis	Greener Howe Jenkins	McDonough McKeith Mann	Mullen Oliver Wood, P.
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And forty-six Members voting against:-

Councillors	Armstrong Atkinson Bewick Blackburn Butler Chequer Crosby Cunningham Davison Dixon, D. Essl Fletcher	Foster Gibson, E. Gibson, P. Haswell Hodson Jackson Johnston Lauchlan Lawson MacKnight, D. MacKnight, N. Marshall	McClennan Miller, F. Miller, G. Mordey O'Brien Potts Samuels Scanlan Smith, G. Smith, P. Stewart	Taylor Thornton Trueman, D. Turner Tye Walker, P. Waller Watson Williams Wilson, D. Wood, K.
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The Deputy Mayor proposed that approval and adoption of the Cabinet report be considered in two stages, with a separate vote on Cabinet's recommendations in respect of Item 1 – City Plan "Sunderland 2019-2030 and Item 2 – Capital Programme Planning 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 and Capital Strategy being taken first, followed by a vote on the remainder of Cabinet's recommendations.

Upon being put to the vote, with forty-two Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	Mann	Thornton
	Bewick	Gibson, P.	Marshall	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Hunt	Miller, F.	Turner
	Butler	Jackson	Miller, G.	Tye
	Chequer	Jenkins	Mordey	Walker, P.
	Cunningham	Johnston	Samuels	Waller
	Davison	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Watson
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Smith, P.	Williams
	Essl	MackKnight, D.	Stewart	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	MackKnight, N.	Taylor	Wood, K.
	Foster	McClennan		

Seventeen Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackett	Greener	McDonough	Oliver
	Crosby	Haswell	McKeith	Potts
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	Mullen	Smith, G.
	Doyle	Howe	O'Brien	Wood, P.
	Francis			

And one abstention:-

Councillor Armstrong

Accordingly it was:-

31. RESOLVED that the Cabinet's recommendations for Items 1 and 2 of the report of the Cabinet be adopted and approved.

In respect of the remainder of Cabinet's recommendations, upon being put to the vote, with forty-five Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Gibson, P.	Marshall	Taylor
	Blackburn	Haswell	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Butler	Hodson	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Hunt	Mordey	Turner
	Crosby	Jackson	O'Brien	Tye
	Cunningham	Johnston	Potts	Walker, P.
	Davison	Lauchlan	Samuels	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Scanlan	Watson
	Essl	MacKnight, D.	Smith, G.	Williams
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N.	Smith, P.	Wilson, D.
	Foster	McClennan	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Gibson, E.			

Eleven Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackett	Francis	McDonough	Oliver
	Dixon, M.	Greener	McKeith	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Howe	Mullen	

And four Members voting to abstain:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Bewick	Jenkins	Mann
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Accordingly it was:-

32. RESOLVED that the remainder of the Cabinet recommendations within the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

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

1. Annual Report on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2018/19

That the Audit and Governance Committee had given consideration to a report by the Assistant Director of Business and Property Services on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2018/19, demonstrating how they have fulfilled their delegated responsibilities.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended to Council that they note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2018/19.

2. Annual Audit Letter 2018/2019

That the Committee gave consideration to the Annual Audit Letter covering the year 2018/2019 prepared by the Council's external auditor Mazars LLP.

The Committee welcomed the positive report and accordingly, the Committee recommended Council note the Annual Audit Letter for 2018/2019.

The Cabinet Secretary, Councillor Stewart, duly seconded by Councillor Lawson, moved the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and accordingly it was:-

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

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 Hodson, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with the majority voting against an extension to the time for responding to written questions by way of a show of hands.

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.

- (i) **Petition to replace and bring up to date equipment and supply a piece of equipment for disabled children to meet inclusive standards. To erect no dogs allowed signs at King George playing field, Church Road, Hetton Downs – Presented by Councillor Cunningham on 19th June, 2019**

Following consideration by Council Officers, work had now been undertaken at the play area to devise an improvement scheme at the current site. The plans had been finalised and a contractor had been appointed. Works to be undertaken included:

- changing the existing surface to grass matting
- new sleeper retaining edges
- the introduction of a new inclusive swirl roundabout and
- installation of a new junior multi-unit

Works were also planned to restore basketball nets and reline the court area. A review of the required signage will then take place establishing the site requirements following the improvements. The contactors aim to have the planned works completed by the end of the calendar year. Councillor Cunningham had been informed of the decision.

(ii) Petition to take action in response to the recent rise in anti social behaviour and arson incidents in Roker Park – Presented by Councillor McKeith on the 18th September, 2019

Officers from Sunderland City Council work with colleagues from Northumbria Police and have discussed required actions in relation to reported incidents in Roker Park.

The arrangements outlined in the report were considered to be an appropriate response to reports of incidents in Roker Park that have been received by Sunderland City Council and Northumbria Police. These arrangements will be subject to review upon receipt of any further reports of incidents in the park.

Councillor McKeith had been informed of the decision.

(iii) Petition to Council with regard to an application calling on the Council to investigate a restriction on the use of Shepherd's Way Car Park and to discourage and prohibit overnight stays, vehicle misuse, noise and damage and the grazing of horses – Presented by Councillor Fiona Miller on 23rd August and 18th September, 2019

In accordance with the Council's procedures, the petition was sent to Housing Services, which leads on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller accommodation to respond to.

The response was prepared by the Encampment Review Group which is a group which meets if there are issues with encampments in the City. The group is comprised of Sunderland City Council officers from Housing, Legal, Security and Environmental Services, a Together for Children representative and Northumbria Police.

The group considered the petition together with evidence relating to complaints about the site, data from Northumbria police, data from Environmental Services and Security staff and overall, the encampments were in line with the Council's unauthorised encampment policy in that it was classed as a suitable site and, where Gypsies, Roma and Travellers overstayed the agreed time, a notice was served and they vacated the site within the terms of the notice. There was no evidence from police or council records of crime and anti-social behaviour on the site. Gypsy and Roma communities are covered by Equality legislation and cannot be treated differently to other people in the community, so existing powers and procedures around noise, anti-social behaviour and crime would be applied in the same way to them as other citizens.

A number of actions were agreed as set out in the report and the Ward Councillors and lead petitioner had been advised of the outcomes.

Notices of Motion

(i) Fairer Funding Formula for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Councillor Taylor, duly seconded by Councillor Samuels, moved the following motion:-

“Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service continues to face ongoing challenges as a result of a funding model that hits hardest those Services that operate in areas of high deprivation such as ours.

This council notes that:

- whilst all fire and rescue services have experienced funding challenges to some extent, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service’s core spending power has been significantly reduced since austerity began in 2010, having experienced some of the most significant budget reductions across fire and rescue services in England.
- based on the best information available at this time, the Authority is projected to be facing a cumulative funding shortfall of £4.089m by the end of 2022/2023.

This council therefore agrees to support the Chief Fire Officer and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, in lobbying the Government for a fairer funding formula for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service that takes into account areas of deprivation and those that exist in Sunderland and Tyne and Wear.”

The motion having been unanimously agreed, it was:-

34. RESOLVED that:-

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service continues to face ongoing challenges as a result of a funding model that hits hardest those Services that operate in areas of high deprivation such as ours.

This council notes that:

- whilst all fire and rescue services have experienced funding challenges to some extent, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service’s core spending power has been significantly reduced since austerity began in 2010, having experienced some of the most significant budget reductions across fire and rescue services in England.

- based on the best information available at this time, the Authority is projected to be facing a cumulative funding shortfall of £4.089m by the end of 2022/2023.

This council therefore agrees to support the Chief Fire Officer and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, in lobbying the Government for a fairer funding formula for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service that takes into account areas of deprivation and those that exist in Sunderland and Tyne and Wear.

(ii) Abolition of Section 21 'No Fault' Evictions

Councillor Haswell, duly seconded by Councillor Hodson, moved the following motion:-

“Section 21, ‘no fault’ evictions allow a landlord to evict a tenant after a set period without giving a reason. This motion calls on Sunderland City Council to campaign to end the use of Section 21 evictions, as Scotland has done, and create greater security for renters.

This council notes that:

- no-fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, allow landlords to evict tenants, without having to give a reason, once the term of the tenancy has expired;
- 80% of England’s 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants under Section 21 without cause;
- research published by The Observer campaign group Generation Rent indicates that Section 21 evictions are now the single biggest cause of homelessness in England; and that
- in 2017, the Scottish Government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

This council believes Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions:

- would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- would further help to tackle homelessness, which should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- should happen as soon as practicably possible.

This council, therefore:

- notes with concern the failure of the UK Government to pass legislation to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England despite announcing plans to consult on new legislation in April 2019;

- calls upon the next UK Government, formed after the General Election on 12 December 2019 to ensure that legislation is brought forward in the new Parliament to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England;
- ensures that existing rules on evictions where there is damage to a property, anti-social behaviour or non payment of rent are simplified for landlords whilst ensuring that reasonable requirements on dispute resolution are maintained; and
- resolves to work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation and renters' unions, to bring about the swift abolition of Section 21 no-fault evictions.

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

35. RESOLVED that:-

Section 21, 'no fault' evictions allow a landlord to evict a tenant after a set period without giving a reason. This motion calls on Sunderland City Council to campaign to end the use of Section 21 evictions, as Scotland has done, and create greater security for renters.

This council notes that:

- no-fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, allow landlords to evict tenants, without having to give a reason, once the term of the tenancy has expired;
- 80% of England's 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants under Section 21 without cause;
- research published by The Observer campaign group Generation Rent indicates that Section 21 evictions are now the single biggest cause of homelessness in England; and that
- in 2017, the Scottish Government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

This council believes Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions:

- would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- would further help to tackle homelessness, which should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- should happen as soon as practicably possible.

This council, therefore:

- notes with concern the failure of the UK Government to pass legislation to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England despite announcing plans to consult on new legislation in April 2019;

- calls upon the next UK Government, formed after the General Election on 12 December 2019 to ensure that legislation is brought forward in the new Parliament to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England;
- ensures that existing rules on evictions where there is damage to a property, anti-social behaviour or non payment of rent are simplified for landlords whilst ensuring that reasonable requirements on dispute resolution are maintained; and
- resolves to work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation and renters' unions, to bring about the swift abolition of Section 21 no-fault evictions.

(iii) Port Board: Independent Members

Councillor P. Wood, duly seconded by Councillor George Smith, moved the following motion:-

“This Council regrets the termination on 31 December 2019 of the co-options of the two independent members of the Port Board and records its appreciation of their services.

It believes the expertise of such members will continue to be required for the successful operation of the Port and that it would be proper for an appropriate payment to continue to be made for such expertise.”

Pursuant to Rule 13.12 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader, duly seconded by Councillor Mordey, moved that the question be put and the matter proceed to the vote, given that the item had already been considered under the Report of the Cabinet earlier on the agenda.

Upon being put to the vote, with thirty-seven Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Foster	Marshall	Taylor
	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	Mann	Thornton
	Bewick	Gibson, P.	Miller, F.	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Jackson	Miller, G.	Turner
	Butler	Jenkins	Mordey	Tye
	Chequer	Johnston	Samuels	Walker, P.
	Cunningham	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Smith, P.	Williams
	Essl	MackKnight, N.	Stewart	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher			

Sixteen Members voting against:-

Councillors	Blackett	Francis	McDonough	Oliver
	Crosby	Greener	McKeith	Potts
	Dixon, M.	Haswell	Mullen	Smith, G.
	Doyle	Hodson	O'Brien	Wood, P.

And one abstention:-

Councillors McClennan

Accordingly it was:-

36. RESOLVED that the procedural motion to proceed to the vote on the substantive motion be agreed.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was defeated, with thirty-two Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Foster	Marshall	Taylor
	Blackburn	Gibson, E.	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Butler	Gibson, P.	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Jackson	Mordey	Turner
	Cunningham	Johnston	Samuels	Tye
	Dixon, D.	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Walker, P.
	Essl	Lawson	Smith, P.	Williams
	Fletcher	MackKnight, N.	Stewart	Wilson, D.

Twenty Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Doyle	Jenkins	O'Brien
	Bewick	Francis	McDonough	Oliver
	Blackett	Greener	McKeith	Potts
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Smith, G.
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	Mullen	Wood, P.

And one abstention:-

Councillors McClennan

(iv) Together for Children Failures

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

“Recent reports and evidence suggest that the quality of operations in some TfC departments have not improved since the last full Ofsted inspection; in some areas they have got worse.

Council agrees that the Portfolio Holder should resign from her position if no clear improvements have been made within six months.

The Portfolio Holder is asked to produce a report detailing what she is doing in response to the imminent monitoring letter.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated, with thirty-four Members voting against:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Foster	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Atkinson	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Turner
	Butler	Jackson	Samuels	Tye
	Chequer	Johnston	Scanlan	Walker, P.
	Cunningham	Lauchlan	Smith, P.	Waller
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Stewart	Williams
	Essl	MacKnight, N.	Taylor	Wilson, D.
	Fletcher	Marshall		

And, nineteen Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Bewick	Francis	McDonough	Oliver
	Blackett	Greener	McKeith	Potts
	Crosby	Haswell	Mann	Smith, G.
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Doyle	Jenkins	O'Brien	

(v) Register of Political Interests

The following motion was the next item of business on the Council agenda.

“In the interests of transparency this Council agrees to establish a register of political interests which all senior officers who are members of a political party will be expected to complete.”

Prior to the motion being moved and seconded, the Deputy Leader raised a point of order under the Council Rules of Procedure regarding the scope of the motion and sought advice on its appropriateness.

The Deputy Mayor ruled that the motion would be unlawful and would not be debated. Accordingly he proceeded to the next item of business.

Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report and supplementary report on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the reports which advised that since the publication of the Council Summons, the undermentioned decision had been made:-

Decision Taker	Date	Particulars of Decision	Summary of matters in respect of which the decision was made
Cabinet	19.11.19	To seek approval to vary funding within the agreed capital programme to enable the award of a contract in respect of a local authority commissioned special free school.	Action required to secure the award of a contract to ensure there is no delay in the creation of a new ASD School, which is intended to increase the availability of specialist autistic places across the City.

and accordingly, it was:-

37. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments to the Together for Children Sunderland Board.

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

38. RESOLVED that the appointment of David Gallagher and Denise Bexley on the Together for Children Board, for a three year term, subject to satisfactory DBS and references be approved.

(Signed) H. TRUEMAN,
Deputy Mayor.

