



South Tyneside Council

Cabinet Minutes 27 May 2026

Present: Councillors: Mackings (*in the Chair*), Heywood, Pittuck, Royal, S. Smith and Sybenga.

Jonathan Tew (Chief Executive), Stuart Reid (Director of Business and Resources), Stuart Easingwood (Director of Children's Services), Stuart Wright (Director of Strategy and Place), Gary Kirsop (Director of Operations), Vicki Pattinson (Director of Adult Social Services and Commissioning), Tom Hall (Director of Public Health), Gill Hayton (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Natalie Johnson (Senior Press Officer), Caroline Smith (Press Officer) and Karen Connolly (Democracy Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Curry and Fascione

There was 2 members of the press in attendance and 2 members of the public.

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mackings declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10 - Tyne Coast College – Update, he left the meeting during the discussion and determination of the item.

2. Minutes of 11 March 2026

Resolved: In the absence of any previous Cabinet councillors, officers confirmed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, Councillors accepted the minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 March 2026.

3. Appointment of Representatives on Joint Committees – 2026/27

Submitted: Report of the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The report, which was presented by Councillor Mackings, Leader of the Council, sought approval to appointments to joint committees which have executive decision-making powers and are therefore required to be appointed by Cabinet.

Resolved: That the following appointments be made to the bodies indicated:

North East Purchasing Organisation (N.E.P.O.)

Councillors Mackings and Sybenga

South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Committee

Councillors Heywood and Pittuck

North East Museums Strategic Board for 26/27

Councillors Curry and Sybenga

Substitute: Councillor Royal

Tyne & Wear Trading Standards Joint Committee

Councillors: Heywood, Mackings, Royal, S. Smith and Sybenga

Reasons for decision: To enable the joint committees to be constituted correctly.

4. Corporate Parenting Panel and Schools Forum Appointments 2026/27

Submitted: Report of the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The report, which was presented by Councillor Mackings, Leader of the Council, sought approval of proposed appointments to the Corporate Parenting and Schools Forum for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Resolved: That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Corporate Parenting Committee as listed:

Corporate Parenting

Councillors: Fascione (by position)

Jones, McKeown, Pittuck, Ross and Tooley

Director of Children's Services (Stuart Easingwood)

Service Manager Integrated LAC (Tony Joyce)

Head of Children and Families Social Care (Chris Ring)

Head of Virtual School for Looked After Children & EMTRAS – *(when required)*

A senior manager from South Tyneside Homes/Regulatory Services

A senior manager from Leisure Services

A senior representative from Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne & Wear Mental Health Trust

A senior representative from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust

Schools Forum

Councillor Sybenga - Lead Member for Finance & Resources

Councillor Fascione – Lead Member for Children & Families, Education and Skills

5 Representatives from Community Primary Schools
1 Representative from VA (Voluntary aided) Primary Schools
3 Representatives from Academy Primary Schools
3 Representatives from Community Secondary Schools
3 Representatives from Academy Secondary Schools
1 Representative from 16-19 Partnership
1 Representative from Special Schools
1 Representative from Nursery Schools
1 Representative from the Early Years PVI (Private, Voluntary or Independent) Sector
1 Representative from Trade Unions
2 Representative from Diocesan Boards
1 Representative from Pupil Referral Unit
Director of Children's Services (Stuart Easingwood)
Head of Education (Joanne Campbell)
Assistant Director of Finance (Alan Foster)
Finance Business Partner (Kevin Smith)
Finance Business Partner (Steph Humble)
Finance Advisor (Emma Adams)

Reasons for decision: In order that the statutory responsibilities of the Council in relation to Corporate Parenting Panel and Schools Forum are appropriately fulfilled.

5. Consultative Forum Appointments 2026/27

Submitted: Report of the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The report, which was presented by Councillor Mackings, Leader of the Council, sought approval of proposed appointments to the Consultative Forum for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Resolved: That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Forum:

South Tyneside Council Workforce Consultative Forum (12)

Councillors: Diamond, Fox, Jones, Leather, Oughton, Perry, Rice, Richardson, Royal, M. Smith, S. Smith and H. Wildhirt.

Reasons for decision: To enable the work of the Forum to continue.

6. Armed Forces Forum Appointments 2026/27

Submitted: Report of the Head of Legal and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The report, which was presented by Councillor Mackings, Leader of the Council, sought approval of proposed appointments to the Armed Forces Forum for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Resolved: That (a) the following Members be appointed to serve on the Armed Forces Forum as listed:

Armed Forces Member Champion (Chair) – Councillor Richardson
Armed Forces Veteran – Elected Member Representative – Councillor Bell
101 Regiment (205 Battery)
Demob Job (Engineering and Technical ex-Military Recruitment Agency)
Department for Work and Pensions
Durham Light Infantry
Local Cadet Forces
Merchant Navy Welfare Board
Ministry of Defence
NAAFI Break
North of England Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association
Royal British Legion
South Tyneside Adult Recovery Service
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
South Tyneside Housing Services
South Tyneside Lifecycle Primary Care Mental Health Service
The Rifles
Third Sector Representatives (Food Banks)
Veterans for Veterans in Care
Veteran's Response
Walking with the Wounded
Zenith People (Recruitment Agency);

(b) Councillor Richardson be appointed as Armed Forces Member Champion and (c) the Chair of the Armed Forces Forum be granted discretion to invite partner organisations and stakeholders to Armed Forces Forum meetings as appropriate.

Reason for Decision: *To enable the Armed Forces Forum to continue with their work, implementing their action plan to support the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy community in South Tyneside.*

7. New Local Plan

Submitted: Report of the Director of Place Strategy

The report, which was presented by Councillor Royal, Lead Member Economic Growth, Regeneration and Investment sought Cabinet endorsement to commence work on progressing a new Local Plan for South Tyneside in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and national plan-making reforms.

The Council is one of 39 local authorities in England that are required by Government to give notice of commencement of plan-making under a new system for Local Plans by 30 June 2026 and, to have reached the first of three gateway stages in the process by 31 October 2026.

Separately, but at the same time, the Council is also continuing to progress the emerging South Tyneside Local Plan (2023 – 2040) towards formal adoption following completion of Examination in Public hearing sessions (July 2025/ January 2026) and a Main Modifications Consultation in March/April 2026. The Council remains under a Government direction to facilitate examination of the Local Plan and to consider the plan for adoption. This progression of the current Local Plan is a distinctly separate process to the requirement to produce a new Local Plan for the Borough.

At present, the IAMP is subject to a jointly prepared Area Action Plan (AAP) with Sunderland City Council which was adopted in 2017. Both Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council jointly progressed a new IAMP AAP which had been subject to Regulation 18 consultation (July – September 2024) and Regulation 19 consultation (March to May 2025). The new AAP sought to increase the flexibility of the document going forward to be appropriately aligned to the North East Investment Zone. Following the consultation, both Councils have reviewed the document and the circumstances around the need for a new AAP. Given that the IAMP area is now either developed out or consented, it is considered that there is no longer a requirement for a development plan document specific to that area. The Councils therefore no longer intend to progress the AAP to examination and approval was sought to revoke the Regulation 19 draft IAMP AAP.

It was, therefore, proposed that the part of the IAMP within South Tyneside would form part of the area to be covered by the new Local Plan. It was noted that Sunderland City Council would take the same approach with regard to the area of IAMP within their administrative boundary. The area currently covered by the existing IAMP AAP would be subject to allocations /policies within the new local plans and both authorities will continue to work collaboratively with each other during the plan-making process, including on evidence and delivery. It should be noted that the existing IAMP AAP will remain part of the Development Plan for the Borough until the new Local Plan is adopted.

Options Considered

Option 1

Work to commence on a new Local Plan by 30 June 2026

Option 2

Do not commence with work on a new Local Plan, however the Government has made it clear that if the Council fails to make progress with plan-making, they will consider intervening to accelerate plan progress. The Council has already been subject to Government intervention in order to progress the current draft Local Plan, thus evidencing the very real threat of Government intervention. Reflective of this approach, the Council was contacted by MHCLG in early April seeking the submission to them of details of an indicative Local Plan timetable.

Resolved: That (a) the Director of Place Strategy in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to prepare

a detailed Local Plan Timetable having regard to the high-level timetable set out at Table 1 of the report and authorises its submission to MHCLG and its publication (Regulation 4 and 5); (b) the Director of Place Strategy in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to update and publish the Local Plan Timetable as required to ensure an up-to-date timetable is publicly available (Regulation 6); (c) the Director of Place Strategy in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to agree commencement of the scoping consultation (Regulation 20); (d) the Director of Place Strategy in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to approve, submit and publish documents for Gateway 1 self-assessment (Regulation 21), Gateway 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31); (e) the Director of Place Strategy in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to agree the content of and commencement of Consultation: proposed Local Plan content and evidence, including draft vision (Regulation 23) and Consultation on the proposed local plan (Regulation 27) with feedback brought back to a future Cabinet meeting and (f) approval be given to revoke the draft International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan (IAMP AAP) and its associated evidence base and endorse the inclusion of the area within South Tyneside's boundary in the new Local Plan.

Reason for Decision: *To comply with new plan-making regulations.*

To ensure compliance with the requirement that Local Plans be prepared under the new system give notice of intention to commence by 30 June 2026 and publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026.

To agree decision-making processes to support the Council's ability to meet the Government prescribed plan-making period of 30 months.

To proceed with the statutory requirement to produce an up-to-date Local Plan that will provide the framework for planning decisions in South Tyneside.

Given it is the Government's stated ambition for all planning policies to be contained within a single Local Plan document, it is proposed that the policies of the International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan (IAMP AAP) should be incorporated into a new Local Plan.

8. Voluntary Sector Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) Contract Award

Submitted: Report of the Director of Adult Social Services & Commissioning

The report, which was presented by Councillor Heywood, Lead Member Adults, Health and Independence sought approval of a contract for a Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE) and South Tyneside Healthnet (STH) network in the Borough. The contract proposed was for a three-year period commencing 1 September 2026.

The Council recognises the value of voluntary organisations, particularly their role in helping deliver its aspirations and statutory responsibilities. Prevention is one of Adult Social Care's (ASC) statutory duties, with voluntary sector services helping local people to live well in the community, whilst helping to reduce the demand for council services. For many years, the Council has supported the development of the sector via a contract with Inspire South Tyneside (Inspire). As part of the contract, they have provided information, advice, and support to new and existing community organisations, including support with funding and volunteering. They also advocate on behalf of the sector and support the South Tyneside "Pledge." Inspire has therefore been, for a number of years, the Borough's Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO).

In addition, the Council funds "Healthnet South Tyneside" (HST), a local network providing a unique local voice in the Borough, to debate, influence and shape local health and wellbeing policies and services.

In order to ensure value for money, the Council must reprocure all such contracts in a timely manner to ensure value for money, transparency, and effective delivery of services.

As part of the re-tendering process, stakeholder engagement was carried out, including consultation with relevant portfolio holders and staff. In addition, work undertaken by the Council's Engagement, Communication and Support Service on the future needs of the VCFSE sector was also taken into account.

Following a competitive tendering process one application was received from Inspire South Tyneside.

Resolved: That approval be given to the award of contract to Inspire South Tyneside, for a three-year period from 1 September 2026 until 31 August 2029.

Reason for decision: The contract award will provide some sustainability to the support for the VCFSE sector, which in turn will provide in part preventative services that will help deliver Care Act 2014 duties.

The contract will also help reduce the pressure on statutory services through the availability of community-based provision.

The Healthnet ST element of the contract will support health and social care collaboration.

The contract will also promote opportunities for volunteering including support for Carers who may wish to volunteer.

9. Chair's Urgent Items

There were no Chair's Urgent Items.

10. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the agenda items as they involve exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

Minute no.	Item	Exempt category nos.	"Public interest" test Reason for exempting
11	10	3	The report contains information which if published could affect the business affairs of persons named in the report.

Councillor Mackings vacated the Chair and left the meeting

Councillor Sybenga took the Chair

11. Tyne Coast College Update

Submitted: Report of the Director of Business and Resources

The report, which was presented by Councillor Royal, Lead Member Economic Growth, Regeneration and Investment sought approval to the transfer of the building at One Harton Quay (1HQ) to permit the development of student accommodation as part of the project to relocate Tyne Coast College (TCC) into South Shields town centre.

Options Considered

Option 1

Agree to vary the Development Agreement to permit the transfer of the building at One Harton Quay at nil consideration.

Option 2

Decline to vary the Development Agreement and require the transfer of the building at market value accepting the increased timelines and consequential financial risk which regardless would at best not place the Council in an improved financial position.

Resolved: That (a) approval be given to option 1 to waive the requirement within the Development Agreement to transfer One Harton Quay to TCC at market value and (b) delegated approval be given to the Directors of Business and Resources and Place Strategy in consultation with the appropriate portfolio holders to implement the necessary legal, commercial and financial matters relating to the transfer of One Harton Quay.

Reasons for Decisions: To continue with the positive progress in the relocation of Tyne Coast College supporting regeneration of South Shields Town Centre.
