
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
20TH FEBRUARY 2008

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Barnes-Andrews
The Sheriff, Councillor Parnell
Councillors Baillie, Ball, Baston, Beckett, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Mrs Bridle, Burke, Cooke, Cunio, Mrs Damani, Dean, Dick, Drake, Galton, Goss, Halderthay, Hannides, Harryman, Jackson, Johnson, Ms Kelly, Letts, Marsh-Jenks, Matthews, McEwing, Mrs Milton, Mizon, Moulton, Noon, Norris, Odgers, Payne, Rayment, Samuels, Slade, Smith, Sollitt, Stevens, Thomas, Vinson, Wells, White, P. Williams and Dr R. Williams.

81. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Davis.

82. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) It was noted that the deputation from Unison relating to the Council budget 2008/09 had been withdrawn.
- (ii) The Council received a deputation from Deborah Gearing, Paul Ainsworth and Stephen Foster concerning the Annual Grants for five arts organisations.
- (iii) The Council received a deputation from Mr R J Shillabeer, Alan Keble and John Radmore concerning heating charges.

83. COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

(a) GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 TO 2010/11

(b) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 TO 2010/11

The reports of the Cabinet Member for Resources were submitted concerning the revised Capital Programme for 2007/08-2010/11 together with the latest estimated overall financial position on the General Fund Budget for 2008/09 -2010/11 and outlining the main issues that needed to be addressed in considering the budget proposals. The recommendations therein as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2008/09 to comprise the Executive's budget proposals were moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Samuels (copies of reports circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes and a copy of the amended Executive Budget resolution as circulated at the meeting attached as appendix A to these minutes).

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rules 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9 and 16.2:

- i) to enable the above items to be considered together;
- ii) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- iii) to enable any amendments to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- iv) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-
 - Movers of motion - 20 minutes
 - Seconders - 10 minutes
 - Other Speakers - 4 minutes

An amendment setting out the Labour Group's budget proposals (Labour Budget Resolution 2008/09) was moved by Councillor Bridle and seconded by Councillor Rayment (copy attached as Appendix B to these minutes).

A further amendment setting out the Liberal Democrat Group's budget proposals (Liberal Democrat Budget Resolution 2008/09) was moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Beckett (copy attached as Appendix C to these minutes).

In moving the Liberal Democrat Group budget proposals, Councillor Beckett moved and Councillor Milton seconded the following alteration to their amendment, thereby further amending the Executive's Budget as follows:-

Add to the end of Recommendation (vii)

'Subject to Cabinet approval of the scheme following trials and public consultation.'

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION TO READ

- (vii) Add £100,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital programme in 2008/09 for Woodmill Traffic signals, to be funded from corporate resources subject to Cabinet approval of the scheme following trials and public consultation.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP PROPOSALS WERE DECLARED LOST.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE LABOUR GROUP PROPOSALS WERE DECLARED LOST.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS WERE DECLARED NOT CARRIED AT THIS TIME IN THIS FORM.

A further amended Executive Budget (Revised Budget Resolution 2008/09) was moved by Councillor Bridle and seconded by Councillor Vinson together with an alteration to add to the end of recommendation (viii) "subject to Cabinet approval of the scheme following trials and public consultation".

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION TO READ

(vii) Add £100,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital programme in 2008/09 for Woodmill Traffic signals, to be funded from corporate resources subject to Cabinet approval of the scheme following trials and public consultation.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE FURTHER AMENDED EXECUTIVE BUDGET WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the budget resolution as set out in Executive Budget Resolution 2008/09 (appendix D to these minutes) incorporating the alteration to resolution (viii) be adopted.

84. EMERGENCY MOTION

With the consent of the Mayor, Councillor Bridle moved and Councillor Vinson seconded the following emergency motion:-

In accordance with Article 7.03(e) of the Council's Constitution, this Council resolves to remove Councillor Samuels from the Office of Leader of the Council.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the motion as submitted be approved.

The meeting was adjourned by the Mayor to allow the Groups to consider their positions in light of the above resolution. The meeting reconvened at 5.05pm.

85. ELECTION OF THE LEADER

The nomination of Councillor Bridle was moved and seconded.
The nomination of Councillor Samuels was moved and seconded.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE IT WAS

RESOLVED that Councillor Bridle be elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

Following the election of Leader, Councillor Bridle informed the Council of the membership of the Cabinet and the portfolio responsibilities as follows:-

| COUNCILLOR | PORTFOLIO |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Vinson | Economic Development and Regional Affairs |
| Councillor Baston | Planning and Transportation |
| Councillor Richard Williams | Environment and Sustainability |
| Councillor Burke | Leisure and Neighbourhoods |
| Councillor Rayment | Health Adult Social Care and Communities |
| Councillor Marsh–Jenks | Finance and Resources |
| Councillor Beckett | Homes and Housing |
| Councillor Stevens | Children’s Services |
| Councillor Milton | Adult Learning and Young People |

It was noted that details of the contents of each portfolio would be incorporated into the scheme of Executive Delegation in the Constitution.

85. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods was submitted seeking approval of any proposed rent and service charge increases for council tenants and updating the Capital Programme that was approved by Council in September 2007 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

Amendment moved by Councillor Mizon and seconded by Councillor Jackson:

To add an additional recommendation as set out below:

‘To add a spending initiative of £30,000 to the HRA budget, as a matched funding contribution to fund Junior Wardens Leaders/Youth Wardens Volunteering Pilot, to be funded from the HRA contingency. This match funds the General Fund spending initiative for Housing & Neighbourhoods Portfolio.’

Further amendment moved by councillor Harryman and seconded by Councillor Blatchford:

In relation to Uncommitted Decent Neighbourhoods expenditure detailed in Appendix 4, the following individual lines for each area be deleted:

| Scheme Description | Feb-08 Estimate 2008/09 £'000 | Feb-08 Estimate 2009/10 £'000 | Feb-08 Estimate 2010/11 £'000 | Feb-08 Total £'000 |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Uncommitted | | | | |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Harefield and Townhill Park | 1,000 | 100 | | 1,100 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Weston | 400 | 100 | | 500 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Peartree and Sholing | 200 | | | 200 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Millbrook and Maybush | | 1,300 | 200 | 1,500 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Thornhill | | 100 | | 100 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Central | | | 800 | 800 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Lordshill | | | 250 | 250 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Swaythling | | | 210 | 210 |
| Decent Neighbourhoods - Shirley | | | 140 | 140 |
| Estate Improvement Programme | 200 | 200 | 200 | 600 |

and replaced with a single line entitled “Decent Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme” with an amount of £1.8 million in each year from 2008/09 to 2010/11, as follows:.

| Scheme Description | Feb-08 Estimate 2008/09 £'000 | Feb-08 Estimate 2009/10 £'000 | Feb-08 Estimate 2010/11 £'000 | Feb-08 Total £'000 |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Uncommitted | | | | |
| Decent Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme | 1800 | 1800 | 1800 | 5400 |
| Estate Regeneration | 200 | 200 | 200 | 600 |

The decision as to how this amount will be allocated shall be determined through scheme approval based on a Strategic Needs Assessment approved by the Executive for estate improvement across the Council’s housing stock.

AMENDMENT TO RECOMMENDATION (viii)

Delete the words:

“as well as the new approach to the decent neighbourhoods budgets” from the original recommendation.

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION TO READ

To approve the additional funding proposed by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods for disabled adaptations, crime reduction and safety and estate regeneration, as set out in detail in paragraph 42.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HARRYMAN WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MIZON WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Tenant Association Representatives be thanked for their input to the capital and revenue budget setting process and their views as set out in this report be noted.
- (ii) That, with effect from the 7th April 2008, the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £58.29 be increased by 5.8%, which equates to an average increase of £3.38 per week, and that the following be approved to calculate this increase:
 - That the percentage increase applied to all dwelling rents should be 4.4%, equivalent to £2.56 per week
 - The revised phased introduction of the Government's Rent Restructuring regime giving a further overall increase average rent levels of 1.4% (£0.82 per week) and,
to note that:
 - The total percentage increase in individual rents will vary according to the restructured rent of their property in 2017.
- (iii) That an increase of 5.8% in the charges for garages and parking spaces with effect from 7th April 2008 be approved.
- (iv) That an increase in the service charges for the non-care element of warden services of 5.8% with effect from 7th April 2008 be approved.
- (v) That the continuation of Supporting People payment protection for a further year until the end of March 2009 be approved.
- (vi) That the Housing Revenue Account Estimates as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (vii) That it be noted that the rental income and service charge payments would be paid by tenants over a 48 week period.
- (viii) That the additional funding proposed by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods for disabled adaptations, crime reduction and safety and estate regeneration, as set out in detail in paragraph 42 of the report be approved.
- (ix) That subject to (viii) above, the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 of the report, which includes total spending of £88.629M on work that meets the definition of "affordable housing", be approved.
- (x) That the use of resources to fund the HRA Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 5 of the report, including the use of unsupported borrowing in a

total sum of £2.15M be approved.

- (xi) That a spending initiative of £30,000 be added to the HRA budget, as a matched funding contribution to fund Junior Wardens Leaders/Youth Wardens Volunteering Pilot, to be funded from the HRA contingency. This match funds the General Fund spending initiative for Housing & Neighbourhoods Portfolio.

NOTE: Councillor Drake, Noon and Thomas declared personal but not prejudicial interests in the above matter in view of their status as Council house tenants or council leaseholders and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

86. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2007/08 – 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources was submitted seeking approval to the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2007/08 to 2010/11, as required under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Council's Prudential Indicators as detailed in paragraph 10 and within Appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09 as outlined in the report be approved;
- (iii) That it be noted that the indicators as reported, had been set on the assumption that the recommendations in the reports earlier on the agenda had been approved and that should the recommendations change, the Prudential Indicators may have to be recalculated; and
- (iv) that it be noted that, due to a change in PWLB policy, there were increased costs associated with the premature repayment of debt which was likely to limit the prospects of any meaningful debt rescheduling in future.