
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2012

Present: Councillors Moulton (Chair), Barnes-Andrews, Chaloner, Fitzhenry, Lewzey, McEwing, Pope, Tucker, Smith and Turner

Apologies: Councillors Vinson and Hannides

Also in Attendance Councillor Payne - Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services
Councillor Noon – Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Improvement
Councillor Letts – Cabinet Member for Resources

9. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Committee noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3 Councillors Smith and Turner acted as substitute for Councillor Hannides and Vinson respectively for the period of this meeting.

10. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 12 July 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

to amend Minute Number 4 Resolution (ii) by adding the wording “from service cuts”.

Minute Number 4 Resolution (ii) to read:-

(ii) the Safeguarding budget be ring fenced from service cuts for 2013/14;

(Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

11. **OAKLANDS SWIMMING POOL**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure detailing the major issues relating to the proposed closure of Oakland’s Swimming Pool.

(Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

In attendance were Councillors Morrell and Thomas and Mr Harry Mitchell (Lordshill Tenants Association and Church Warden) and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting:

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Cabinet Member should request that officers circulate the number of users who took up the free swim initiative at Oaklands Pool to the Committee;
- (ii) the Cabinet Member informs the Committee of the date when officers were instructed to stop repairs to Oaklands Pool

- (iii) the Cabinet Member should request officers that information be circulated to the committee detailing what capital grants might have been available for refurbishing swimming pools following the end of the free swimming initiative;
- (iv) the Cabinet Member explores all funding streams available, including Olympic legacy, to support Oaklands Pool;
- (v) the Cabinet Member refers to the running costs of Oaklands Pool as a subsidy and not in terms of losing money when referring to Oaklands Pool;
- (vi) the Cabinet Member provides details to the Committee outlining when the brief was changed to remove a swimming pool from the Lordshill Masterplan
- (vii) the Cabinet Member request that officers consult the staff and parents of children who go to the nursery on the Oaklands site; and that
- (viii) the Cabinet Member ensures that nothing is done to Oaklands Pool that will make it more expensive to re-open and operate.

12. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Manager – Customer and Business Improvement detailing items requested for discussion from the current Forward Plan. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Mr Gary Edwards (Southampton Advice and Representation Centre) was in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair address the meeting in relation to Agenda Item 8 Appendix 2 – “Process for Awarding Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2013/14 and Beyond”

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services be requested to instruct officers to circulate to the Committee information on whether the proposed Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) licence fee is tax deductible for landlords
- (ii) the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services includes in proposed scheme for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) carbon monoxide monitoring and gas appliance safety checks;
- (iii) the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services ensures that all ward Councillors are informed of the consultation events outlined in the briefing paper attached to the report as Appendix ;
- (iv) the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Improvement request that officers review examples of participatory budget schemes trails from outside the City boundaries that include other organisations and authorities.
- (v) the Committee noted that Council Tax benefit was a key element to those receiving welfare payments. The Committee noted that the proposed terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review of the welfare reforms made reference to the forthcoming changes in council tax benefit. The Committee therefore requested that the Panel discuss the matter at the appropriate meeting of the Review with the Cabinet Member invited to attend.

13. **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME 2012/13 - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee noted the report of the Senior Manager – Customer and Business Improvement seeking approval for the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review Programme 2012-2013 (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

14. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Manager – Customer and Business Improvement, detailing actions and monitoring progress of the recommendations of the Committee. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee received and noted responses made to recommendations at its July Meeting in regard to Agenda Item 11 Appendix 2 “Changes to Existing Revenue and Capital Budgets”
Recommendation agreed as Minute Number 6(i)
That the Cabinet Member revisits Capita’s contribution to the Council’s savings target prior to the next budget being set
Response
The Council is currently engaged in negotiations with Capita seeking to deliver significant savings from the Capita contract for 2013/14 onwards. The Council is engaged with Capita at Chief Executive and Board Level in taking forward discussions and savings proposals.
Recommendation agreed as Minute Number 6(iii)
That the Cabinet Member ensures that information is in the public domain in sufficient time to scrutinise the mini budget before Council consideration in September.
Response
The Mini Budget will be considered at Full Council on the 12th September. Unfortunately OSMC do not meet until the 13th September, and so it will not be possible for OSMC to consider the Mini Budget report before Full Council makes its decision. The Mini Budget information will be published with the Council papers.
- (ii) the Committee received and considered the response from the Cabinet Member of Resources to the recommendation agreed as Minute Number 6(ii) made at its July meeting -
“That the Cabinet Member requests details of the Capita Partnership’s Senior Managers pay levels and circulates to OSMC”

Stating that:

“This has not been requested at the current time. The Council is working positively with Capita to deliver savings, and this would only serve as a distraction.”

and made a revised resolution that

“the Cabinet Member requests details of the Capita Partnership’s Senior Managers pay bands and the number of managers in each band and circulates to Committee Members”

