
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2012

Present: Councillors Moulton (Chair), Vinson (Vice-Chair), Barnes-Andrews, Chaloner, Lewzey, Pope, Baillie, Mrs Blatchford and Smith

Apologies: Councillors Fitzhenry, Hannides, McEwing, Tucker, Mrs U Topp and Mr T Blackshaw

Also in Attendance: Councillor Williams – Leader of the Council
Councillor Payne – Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services
Councillor Bogle – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
Councillor Stevens – Cabinet Member for Adult Services

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

The Panel noted that Councillors Baillie, Blatchford and Smith were in attendance as a nominated substitutes for Councillors Hannides, McEwing and Smith, respectively, for the purposes of this meeting in accordance with Procedure Rule 4.3.

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 11th October 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

30. **REVIEW OF THE ROMANSE AND CCTV PROJECT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services setting out the current position regarding the independent review of the ROMANSE and CCTV project. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Committee agreed that the final version of the report would be considered for scrutiny when it is released.

31. **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).

RESOLVED:

- (i) on consideration of the briefing paper relating to the forthcoming Cabinet Decision “Townhill Park Regeneration Framework: Scheme Approval for Phase 1” the Committee recommended that:
 - a. the Cabinet Member request detailed modelling, including the best and worst case scenarios, is undertaken on rent levels to include the option of phasing in affordable rent levels;

- b. the Cabinet Member request that analysis is undertaken on the impact affordable rent has had locally and nationally on housing tenure;
 - c. the Cabinet Member request that analysis is undertaken on the affordability of the proposed affordable rent levels taking into consideration the national changes to housing benefit and welfare benefits;
 - d. the Cabinet Member provides details of the demographics of the residents who participated in the consultation to identify if the views of residents in employment and out of employment were represented; and
 - e. the Cabinet Member provides the Committee with details of the profile of the Estate Regeneration Programme moving forward.
- (ii) that the Committee noted the briefing paper relating to the forthcoming Cabinet Decision “ Implementation of the New School Funding Formula”

NOTE: The Committee noted that Councillors Blatchford, Lewzey and Moulton declared a personal but none prejudicial interest in regard to consideration the briefing paper outlining the forthcoming Cabinet Decision – “implementation of the New School Funding Formula” on the grounds that they held positions as school governors

32. **PROGRESS REPORT ON POST OFSTED ANNOUNCED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and the Director of Children’s Services and Learning summarising the progress made in addressing the areas for improvement recommended by OfSTED as a result of their Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Children Looked After services in Southampton. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that

- (i) at the annual OSMC Safeguarding meeting in March, the Cabinet Member reports the level of agency staff and cases per social worker compared to October 2012 levels
- (ii) the Cabinet Member request officers to review the suitability of existing IT systems and consider how system changes can support social workers
- (iii) the Cabinet Member works with other Cabinet Members to ensure that the HR function effectively supports the swift recruitment of social workers
- (iv) the Cabinet Member looks at removing bureaucracy and paying the appropriate levels of remuneration in order to recruit senior social workers; and
- (v) that the Cabinet Member and senior officers should convey the Committees thanks and support to the City’s social workers in appreciation for their efforts in the light of a challenging workload.

33. **ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Services detailing the findings of a PWC investigation which informed a final decision about the future delivery model for in house social care (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Committee requested that any future considerations of the alternatives for adult social care delivery options be brought back to an appropriate meeting.

34. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

In addition the Committee noted following responses circulated at the meeting for Minute Number 26(ii) “Consideration of Petitions” that for minute number

26(ii)a - that the Cabinet Member be requested to provide the family with a breakdown of the savings the proposal will generate

RESPONSE

£25K annual salary saving translating to a £13K part year saving. This information will be sent to the family.

26(ii)b - that the Cabinet Member ensure that the Council identifies the number of Council employees whose accommodation is tied to their employment with the Council and develops appropriate policies to address this matter

RESPONSE

Current records indicate that there are 31 properties let to staff of the City Council in accordance with their job role and further checks are currently underway to confirm that this information is up to date.

Of the 31 identified 27 are in Housing and a Policy already exists in relation to rehousing at the end of their employment (*Policy regarding re-housing Wardens on retirement or voluntary termination of employment*). All other service areas are provided for within the Housing Act 1996 which provides for priority need to be awarded to applicants who are losing tied accommodation at the end of their employment.

26(ii)c - that the Cabinet Member ensure that Council contact these employees, to reiterate their status and seeking to ensure that when their term of office ends that they are not left out of pocket through investing in property improvements;

RESPONSE

Details of rights and obligations with regard to repairs and maintenance or improvement will be contained within individual agreements with the employee

concerned. In general terms the only statutory right to compensation for improvements is for secure tenants of Local Authorities which does not apply to staff tenancies (they are not secure)..

26(ii)d - that Cabinet Member ensure that the appropriate screening is erected to screen the property;

RESPONSE

The property is being valued and the cost of appropriate screening will be factored into the transfer of the property to the HRA

26(ii)e - that the Cabinet Member, in compliance with the Council's allocations policy, looks to ensure that the sensitivity of the location is taken into consideration when tenants are identified for the property

RESPONSE

The Council's Housing Allocations Policy will be followed. The policy allows for additional eligibility criteria to be set for sensitive lettings such as Hollybrook Lodge