

# Governance Committee

Monday, 23rd September,  
2013  
at 6.00 pm

## PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

### Members of the Committee

Councillor David Furnell (Chair)  
Councillor Edward Daunt  
Councillor John Inglis  
Councillor Eamonn Keogh (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Georgina Laming  
Councillor Brian Parnell  
Councillor Asa Thorpe

### Independent Members

Mr David Blake  
Mr Geoff Wilkinson

### Contacts

Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services  
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Democratic Support Officer  
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## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### **Role of the Governance Committee**

Information regarding the role of the Committee's is contained in Part 2 (Articles) of the Council's Constitution.

#### [02 Part 2 - Articles](#)

It includes at least one Councillor from each of the political groups represented on the Council, and at least one independent person, without voting rights, who is not a Councillor or an Officer of the Council.

### **Public Representations**

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting about any report on the agenda for the meeting in which they have a relevant interest.

### **Southampton City Council's Priorities:**

- **Economic:** Promoting Southampton and attracting investment; raising ambitions and improving outcomes for children and young people.
- **Social:** Improving health and keeping people safe; helping individuals and communities to work together and help themselves.
- **Environmental:** Encouraging new house building and improving existing homes; making the city more attractive and sustainable.
- **One Council:** Developing an engaged, skilled and motivated workforce; implementing better ways of working to manage reduced budgets and increased demand.

**Smoking policy** – The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

**Mobile Telephones** – Please turn off your mobile telephone whilst in the meeting.

**Fire Procedure** – in the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take.

**Access** – Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

### **Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year 2013/14**

<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
15 July	3 February
23 September	28 April
16 December	

## CONDUCT OF MEETING

### **Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference of the Governance Committee are contained in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

[03 - Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions](#)

### **Business to be discussed**

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

### **Quorum**

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

### **Rules of Procedure**

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Personal Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

#### **DISCLOSABLE PERSONAL INTERESTS**

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

- (iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

## **Other Interests**

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

## **Principles of Decision Making**

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

## AGENDA

**Agendas and papers are now available via the Council's Website**

### **1 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

### **2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

### **3 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

### **4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

### **5 ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNAL COMPLAINTS/LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS**

To receive a verbal update from the Senior Solicitor (Corporate).

### **6 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2012-13 AND REVIEW OF 2011-12 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Report of the Head of Finance and IT seeking to review the Annual Governance Statement 2012-13 and to note the status of the 2011-12 Action Plan, attached.

### **7 RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2013-14: STATUS REPORT**

Report of the Head of Finance and IT regarding the Risk Management Action Plan 2013-14: Status Report, attached.

### **8 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13**

Report of the Head of Finance and IT seeking approval of the statement of accounts 2012/13, attached.

### **9 CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION - COUNCIL PETITION SCHEME**

Report of the Director of Corporate Services seeking comments on recommendations to changes to the Council's Constitution, attached.

**10 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NEW MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT / LOCALISM ACT 2011**

Report of the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services regarding the Members Code of Conduct, attached.

**11 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Report of the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services seeking comments and endorsement of the Member Development Strategy, attached.

**12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the following Item

Confidential Appendix 1 contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication by virtue of Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

**13 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS MID YEAR REVIEW**

Report of the Head of Finance and IT regarding the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits Mid Year review, attached.

**14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the following Item

Confidential Appendices contain information deemed to be exempt from general publication by virtue of Categories 3 and 5 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

**15 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - AUGUST 2013**

Report of the Chief Internal Auditor regarding internal audit progress to the period August 2013, attached.

**16 EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT RESULTS - ISA 260**

Report of the Chief Internal Auditor regarding the external auditor's 'Audit Results Report', attached.