
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2012

Present: Councillors Moulton (Chair), Vinson (Vice-Chair), Barnes-Andrews, Fitzhenry, Hannides, Lewzey, Morrell, Pope and Mintoff and Mr T Blackshaw

Apologies: Councillors Chaloner, McEwing and Mrs U Topp

Also in Attendance: Councillor Letts – Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Bogle – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
Councillor Kaur – Chair of Scrutiny Panel A

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

The Panel noted the apologies of Councillor Chaloner and that Councillor Mintoff was in attendance as a nominated substitute for Councillor McEwing in accordance with Procedure Rule 4.3.

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meetings on 8th, 19th November and 3rd December 2012, be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

41. **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: that on consideration of the briefing paper relating to the forthcoming Cabinet Decision - Community Right to Bid – decision making & governance - the Committee recommended that the Cabinet Member for Resources ensure that Ward Councillors are kept apprised of the process throughout any potential community bid.

42. **BUDGET PROPOSALS – CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Director of Children’s Services and Learning detailing the budget proposals for the Children’s Services Portfolio. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Executive consider phasing the proposed cuts to Youth Services over a two year period to enable alternative options to maintain provision to be identified and developed.
- (ii) Cabinet Member for Children’s Services be requested to attend the Committee at a future date to set out the clear strategic objectives for the Portfolio

43. **WELFARE REFORM INQUIRY – LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered report of the Chair of Scrutiny Panel A, seeking consideration of the draft interim recommendations of Scrutiny Panel A's Welfare Reforms Inquiry relating to the Localisation of Council Tax Support. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Committee approved to forward to the Executive the draft interim recommendations of Scrutiny Panel A's inquiry into Welfare Reforms that:

- (i) Scrutiny Panel A recommends:
 - a. A Discretionary Fund for Local Council Tax Support is established and aligned with Discretionary Housing Payments.
 - b. Discretionary funding is directed at the most vulnerable.
 - c. To ensure that principles of fairness are applied to the Discretionary Fund. This should include:
 - i. Development of a transparent approach for determining applications for the Fund
 - ii. An appropriate complaints process
 - iii. A fund that is operated in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- (ii) That the Cabinet gives further consideration to applying for funding from the Government's Transitional Grant scheme, in the context of the Final Grant Settlement for Southampton, taking into account the benefits and concerns highlighted by the Panel in this report. In their considerations, the Panel recommends that the decision should be in accordance with the principles of 'making work pay'.

44. **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – REVIEW OF PUBLIC AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROVISION TO SOUTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

The Committee noted the report the Senior Manager – Customer and Business Improvement, seeking agreement for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel to undertake a mini review on public and sustainable transport to Southampton General Hospital. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

45. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee noted 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).