
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Councillors Moulton (Chair), Vinson (Vice-Chair), Chaloner, Fitzhenry, Hammond, Hannides, Mintoff and Stevens

In Attendance: Leader of the Council – Councillor Letts
Cabinet Member for Resources – Councillor Barnes-Andrews

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

The Committee noted the apologies of Councillors Keogh and Morrell, Mr Blackshaw and Mrs Topp.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 10th and 16th October 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

34. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, 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 “General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17”, the Committee recommended that:-
 - a) the Cabinet consider supporting subsidising Council Tax Benefits for two additional years to delay the impact of the imposed 10% reduction on some of Southampton’s residents;
 - b) the Cabinet give consideration to commencing the commissioning of additional services immediately, so that the benefits can be realised in the short to medium term; and
 - c) the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee receives updates and reviews on the Transformation Programme at appropriate intervals.

35. **LGA PEER CHALLENGE**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive outlining the recommendations from the LGA Peer Challenge conducted at the end of July 2013 and the Council’s action plan in response. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Leader explores at a Group Leader's Meeting, how the Council can enable access to information and transparency at the same time as simplifying processes and reducing bureaucracy;
- (ii) that, to help change our culture, the Executive consider how to embed a strong performance management framework throughout the council. This could include making performance an integral part of appraisals, helping link individual roles with the wider Council priorities; and
- (iii) that the Executive consider how, through appropriate training and communication, understanding can improve across the authority of the Council's decision making process and the recognition that we are "one Council".

36. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee noted the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, detailing the actions of the Executive and monitoring progress of the recommendations of the Committee. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).