

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 14 September 2023

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
13/07/23	Finance & Change	Medium Term Financial Strategy Update	1) That the monthly budget report that is being prepared for Cabinet is shared with the OSMC Chair.	Agreed	
			2) That, whilst recognising the requirement for timely action, the Executive commits to ensuring transparency and openness in the budget decision making process moving forward.	Agreed	
			3) That this Committee coordinates activity with the Governance Committee to ensure effective oversight and reduce unnecessary duplication.	Agreed. Whilst recognising the distinctive roles played by Audit and Scrutiny, regular dialogue will be scheduled between the Chair of the Governance Committee and the Chair of the OSMC to support a co-ordinated approach.	
			4) That, to support member oversight, local government finance training is offered to all councillors, and workshops are organised for members to discuss ongoing financial issues.	Local government finance training is already offered annually to all Councillors. Furthermore, the LGA sent an email to all Councillors on 10th July with details of a webinar: Finance without numbers: An introduction to local government finance, Thursday 14 September and Thursday 2 November . Group leaders should encourage that their members attend. Further detail is requested on the aims of the workshops in order to understand the resource commitment of this recommendation.	
			5) That a visit is undertaken by the Executive to Portsmouth City Council to understand how they have managed to maintain spending levels at an affordable level.	The Executive is already working closely with CIFPA and the auditors in addition to conversations with Wirral Council in order to develop and deliver the right plan for Southampton. Suggest a meeting via Teams may offer the best value for money option here.	

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			6) That the revised CIPFA report is shared with the Committee when it is available.	Agreed	
			7) That, to increase the sum of money owed to the Authority that is paid on time and in full, the Executive reviews the Council's charging, collection and debt management processes.	This work is already in progress.	
			8) That the Executive reviews the Council's charging policy and that the review is informed by comparisons with Southampton's statistical neighbour authorities.	This work is already in progress.	
			9) That, to support the funding of essential transformation activity, the Executive ensures that the Council's Asset Register is kept up to date to enable the efficient disposal of the most appropriate assets.	This work is already in progress.	
			10) That, reflecting the significant increase in the number of people employed by the City Council over recent years, the Committee is provided with a breakdown of staff numbers, by service area, over the past 5+ years, alongside relevant supporting information.	Accept, however it will take some time to complete the analysis and speak to individual service areas. A graph outlining SCC FTE numbers from 2018 to 2022 is attached as Annex 1.	
			11) That, to improve outcomes and value from procurement activity, consideration is given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying opportunities to streamline the Council's procurement processes. • Extracting additional value by combining similar individual capital 	This work is already in progress and the outcome will be included in a future report.	

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			<p>project procurement activity into larger, single tender processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merging the Council's two procurement teams into a single entity. 		
			<p>12) That the Deputy Leader circulates to the Committee the Labour Party's 2023 Southampton City Council election manifesto to develop understanding of the Administration's priorities.</p>	<p>2023 Southampton City Council election manifesto priorities – Labour Party:</p> <p>A Place to be Proud of</p> <p>Every part of the city deserves investment. Southampton Labour Councillors support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spending more to fix our roads and pavements More CCTV to tackle litter and fly-tipping Increasing access to Southampton's waterfront More investment in your local area through 'Love Where You Live' initiative Bringing derelict buildings and shops back into use. <p>An Affordable City</p> <p>Southampton Labour Councillors will help people with the cost of living by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becoming a Real Living Wage City Delivering more affordable homes Bringing in cheaper, more frequent, buses Becoming a 'Right to Food City' where no one goes hungry Supporting new and existing businesses through tough times. <p>A Greener City</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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				<p>A greener city is a healthier city. Southampton Labour Councillors will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Food Waste Collections • Make more homes energy efficient to keep bills low • Invest in our green spaces and increase the number of Green Flag Parks • Plant more wildflower meadows and thousands of new trees. <p>A Safer City</p> <p>Southampton Labour Councillors want to create a city where everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clamp down on poor quality landlords, with better regulation • Get more Community Wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour • Help local groups through our Safer Neighbourhoods Fund • Improve road safety through school streets. <p>A FAMILY CITY</p> <p>Labour want to create a city where everyone thrives. We stand for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More jobs and training for young people • More things for young people to do in our neighbourhoods • Help with the cost of living crisis • Cheaper all-year bus pass for young people. 	

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10/08/23	Adults, Health & Housing	Consideration of the future of Holcroft House	1) That the Administration ensures that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the consultation on the future of Holcroft House is promoted via the normal channels utilised by the Council. b. the consultation is reviewed to ensure that the options are clear. 	a. Details on promotion of the consultation are included in the OSMC briefing paper. b. It is not possible to amend a consultation once it has gone live. Changing the text or options of a question will invalidate the answers from any respondents who have already taken part. However, the administration does note the comments made for future consultants.	Completed
			2) That the Committee are provided with an overview of the provider market in Southampton and the surrounding area for residents with dementia requiring residential care.	Attached as an appendix to the OSMC briefing paper.	Completed
			3) That the decision making report on the future of Holcroft House, that will be considered by Cabinet and the OSMC in September, includes detailed feedback on the outcomes from the consultation process, as well as the financial implications of the alternative options considered and rejected.	Included within the OSMC briefing paper.	Completed
			4) That, reflecting the complexities relating to the financial implications of the available options, the Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Care is invited to attend the 14 September OSMC meeting.	Agreed. The Finance Business Partner for Adult Social Care will be in attendance at 14 September OSMC meeting.	
10/08/23	Leader	Council Performance Report	1) That all 51 elected members are given access to the Council's Performance Report.	A note on the report is in the Councillor catch up bulletin (with a link and offer of training) and all elected members now have access to the report.	Completed
10/08/23	Finance & Change	Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring	1) That an overview of the outcomes from the Council's voluntary redundancy scheme is circulated to the Committee when available.	Council wide voluntary redundancy opportunity (southampton.gov.uk)	

Annex 1 - SCC FTE numbers

