
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
13 JULY 2011

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Matthews
The Sheriff, Councillor Burke
Councillors Baillie, Ball, Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Capozzoli, Claisse, Cunio, Daunt, Drake, Fitzgerald, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Holmes, Jones, Kaur, Kolker, Letts, Mead, McEwing, Morrell, Moulton, Noon, Osmond, Dr Paffey, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Smith, Stevens, Thomas, Thorpe, Turner, Vassiliou, Vinson, Walker (Minute 27 onwards), Wells, White, Willacy, P Williams and Dr R Williams

24. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 18th May 2011 be approved and signed as correct records.

26. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that no requests to present deputations, petitions or public questions had been received.

27. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted, setting out the details of the business undertaken by the Executive (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

The Leader and the Cabinet made statements and responded to Questions.

The following questions were then submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1:

1. School Performance

Question from Councillor Bogle to Councillor Moulton

What interventions can and should the Local Authority make when schools are not performing?

Answer

Local Authorities will continue to play a significant role in respect of intervening in school under performance. In summary local authorities may:

- Require a school to work in partnership with another school, college, or other named partner for the purpose of school improvement
- Appoint additional governors
- Issue a school with a warning notice
- Apply to the Secretary of State to replace the entire governing body with an Interim Executive Board (IEB) (after conditions are met)
- Take back the school's delegated budget
- Discuss academy status

2. Budget Variations

Question from Councillor Vinson to Councillor Hannides

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture list those budget lines which have been modified since the adoption of the Budget for 2011/12, indicating how any shortfall will be met.

Answer

There have been a number of modifications which have either been made or proposed to the 2011/12 budget.

Budget Changes Associated with the Implementation of Revised Terms & Conditions

The budget report to Full Council in February gave a delegation to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to make any adjustments to the budget arising from negotiations on changes to terms & conditions. The following changes have been made as a result:

- i) Approved Mileage Rate – The proposed change was to reduce the mileage rate to be in accordance with the HMRC rate (which at the date of the budget was 40p per mile). However, almost immediately following the budget decision, the HMRC amended their approved rate to 45p per mile, and it was therefore necessary to increase the rate to 45p per mile. (reduced saving by £108,000)
- ii) July Implementation of T's & C's – as a negotiated settlement (collective agreement) was not reached with the Unions on the implementation of changes to T's & C's, it was not possible to secure a full year's saving from the 1st April 2011. The changes were therefore implemented on the 11th July. This will result in an in-year shortfall of circa £1.2M

The combination of these 2 items has reduced the in-year saving by £1.3M. This will be met in year from balances.

- iii) Market Supplement – a market supplement has been put in place for social workers within Children's Services. This is initially for a 6 month period pending a full review. This will be funded from contingencies and will cost £108,000.

Other Changes

- i) Grants To VO's – in order to undertake full consultation and allow due notice, there has been a draw on contingencies to meet the in-year shortfall in this saving (£104k)
- ii) Meals on Wheels –the meals and wheels saving is subject to review and has not yet been implemented. The in-year shortfall will be funded from contingencies (£45k)

Proposed Changes – 2010/11 Outturn Report

Full Council will today receive the outturn report for the 2010/11 financial year. A number of changes are recommended to be made to the 2011/12 budget as a result:

- i) Organisational Development Reserve – it is recommended that circa £4m will be set aside to cover current and future redundancy costs.
- ii) Carry Forwards – approve carry forward requests of £700k including R&M

3. Charges for Meals on Wheels

Question from Councillor Rayment to Councillor White

Will the Cabinet Member advise Council of the state of the review into increased charges for meals on wheels to senior citizens announced following this February's budget proposals?

Answer

The review has been completed and a small increase in charge of 2p was identified as a result, which has now been implemented.

4. £5m Borrowed from Crawley Borough Council

Question from Councillor McEwing to Councillor Hannides

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture advise Full Council for what purpose was £5m borrowed from Crawley Borough Council?

Answer

Lending to, and borrowing from, other Local Authorities for cash flow/temporary financing purposes is common practice and Southampton Council has undertaken this as part of its standard treasury management activity for many years.

The basic principle is that a Local Authority will on-lend to another Local Authority at a rate which is greater than they could achieve by a 'safe' investment of the funds elsewhere. This ensures that the lending Local Authority is still securing an attractive (and safe) rate of return compared to other investment opportunities. The opposite is of course true for the borrowing Local Authority, who will be looking to secure a rate which is lower than the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) or money market can offer. In the last 5 years the total amounts borrowed from other Local Authorities is £741M. The usual practice is that we don't borrow for more than 364 days from another LA.

The loan from Crawley was taken out for cash flow purposes, as part of normal treasury management activity. This was an operational decision taken by professional Finance Managers, although the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by Full Council, explicitly states that we will lend to and borrow from other Local Authorities.

In terms of risk, borrowing from another Local Authority is risk-free to the borrower. Conversely, when we lend to another Local Authority, we see them as low risk, hence SCC will lend to other Local Authorities when funds allow.

5. Letter re Bin Collections

Question from Councillor McEwing to Councillor Hannides

All Southampton households received a letter regarding Bin Collections. Can the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture advise how much in administration and postage this has cost?

Answer

We have received many questions from residents during the course of the current industrial action, mainly asking about bin collections. As well as responding directly to specific questions, we have been providing advice through our website, our customer phone lines and via the media. Despite this, we continue to receive queries.

We have a responsibility to keep our residents informed and felt it appropriate to write directly to every household in the city, giving practical advice about managing household waste and explaining some of the context of the current dispute. The cost of printing and distributing letters to nearly 110,000 households was £31,000. This will be funded partly from our City View budget, a budget allocated in order to help keep residents informed, and partly from the savings we are making by not having to pay waste collectors while they are on strike. Other savings are being put towards the costs of using the third party suppliers who are currently dealing with the biggest build ups of waste.

Many residents have found the information we are providing very useful and are acting on our advice. This, in turn, is helping manage the build up of waste across the city and lessening the impact of missed bin collections.

We hope that the unions end their current industrial action as soon as possible. We can then return to our regular bin collections and our regular provision of information about those collections.

6. Staff Terms and Conditions

Question from Councillor Dr. R. Williams to Councillor Smith

Has the Leader of the Council ever had any doubts that his policy towards reducing staff pay and threatening to sack anyone not signing such reduced terms and conditions was wrong?

Answer

No

7. Commercial Waste Customers

Question from Councillor Letts to Councillor Fitzhenry

How many commercial waste customers have been affected by the current action and what is the weekly cost to the Council in terms of lost income?

Answer

All commercial residual waste collections have been undertaken as normal during the course of the current dispute. However, commercial waste recycling collections have been affected, and as a result 6 customers have cancelled their contracts and if these cannot be recovered then this equates to a loss of income to the council of £192 per week.

8. Staff Redundancies

Question from Councillor Letts to Councillor Hannides

In the last budget round how many staff applied for voluntary redundancy and were refused? If we had accepted these redundancies what would have been the saving to the authority?

Answer

To date there has been a total of 115 requests for voluntary redundancy across the Council, with:

- 74 accepted, and
- 41 rejected.

If the 41 rejections had been accepted, the approximate saving in salary costs would have been £567,000 including oncosts. It should of course be recognised that in the short term there would have been redundancy costs associated with each voluntary redundancy.

All redundancy requests are assessed against the following criteria:

- They must fit with the business needs of the service (which will include timing issues).
- They must be consistent with any other proposals for restructures and savings being considered by the service.
- They must represent value for money and deliver savings in a reasonable pay back period (bearing in mind that early or flexible retirements usually involve a compensation payment by the Council to the pension fund for the early receipt of benefits).
- There must be sufficient capacity, skills, experience and knowledge left in the service area to undertake the work that remains.

In addition, a voluntary 'bumped' redundancy may be considered where an employee requests voluntary redundancy or early retirement but there is no clear redundancy situation. The manager can consider whether there is another employee who has been identified for compulsory redundancy who could fill this post, either within the same service (through restructure) or from the Redeployment Register. The voluntary redundancy will effectively be used to "offset" the compulsory redundancy.

9. Legal Action by UNITE/UNISON

Question from Councillor Letts to Councillor Hannides

What are the estimated costs to the authority of the current legal action by UNITE/UNISON if

a) The Council loses the case b) The Council wins the case?

Answer

These proceedings have been brought by the trade unions as a complaint to the Tribunal that the Council has failed to comply with its statutory duty to consult. There is, in any case, a duty to consult but where more than a certain number of employees are involved, statute sets out a timescale.

In this case, the Council was obliged to commence consultation at least 90 days before any notice of dismissal was issued. The unions allege that the commencement of the consultation did not allow for statutory timescales to be met and that the consultation, once commenced, did not provide them with sufficient information to consult meaningfully.

The Council is defending the case on the basis that consultation began in November and dismissal notices were sent out in April and that the Unions were provided with all the relevant information as and when it was available.

In answer to the specific questions:

(a) If the unions are successful, they will obtain a protective award of between 1 to 90 days' pay for every employee that was served with notice of dismissal. This would be a penalty payment against the council for not complying with the law, not a compensation payment to compensate for any loss suffered. The fact that employees are still employed would therefore have no impact on the potential judgement. However, a 90 day award would normally only be granted in cases where there was no attempt made by an employer to carry out any consultation at all. In terms of the cost to the council, the amount would be between £140k (1 day award) and £12.5M (90 day award) plus our own legal costs.

(b) In the event that the unions are unsuccessful the Council is likely to incur its own legal costs. It is extremely unlikely that a successful award for costs will be made in this case whatever the outcome.

10. Modifications to Council Properties

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor White

During financial year 2010-11, what was the average (mean) waiting time for occupational therapist assessments for modifications to Southampton City Council properties? What were the shortest and longest waiting times during the same period? "What are the same figures for what has passed in financial year 2011-12?"

We do not collect specific information on the waiting time before the assessment starts for Occupational Therapy assessments for Adaptations.

Answer

We collect information on the length of time from referral to the completion of assessment.

OT average referral to completion in 2010/2011 26.0 days

OT average referral to completion 2011/2012 16.1 days

The longest time from referral to completion in 2010/2011 was 170 days
1 case was attributable to 1 worker and only 3 further cases were over the 90 day Performance Indicator.

The shortest time from referral to completion in 2010/2011 was 0 days

The longest time from referral to completion in 2011/2012 was 75 days

The shortest time from referral to completion in 2011/2012 was 1 days

Note: - these figures do not include cases where the delay was due to hospitalisation, awaiting GP information or landlord permission

11. Waiting Time for Modifications

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Baillie

During financial year 2010-11, what was the average (mean) waiting time for modifications to be made after assessments? Is there sufficient budget in the 2011-12 budget and the 2012-13 budget to allow such modifications assessed as necessary?

Answer

Financial year 2010/11: due to a backlog of works, the average waiting time for a major (“substantial”) adaptation during the year was 16 months. To address this situation and to reduce the waiting time down to the target maximum of 9 months, Cabinet approved in April 2010 investment of £2.7 million for major, minor, “critical” and “substantial” adaptations.

This investment enabled the backlog to be cleared and the waiting time to be halved by the year end [March 2011] to around 8 months. This excludes major adaptations such as extensions where planning permission has to be agreed, and there are currently only 4 of these cases left to complete. “Critical” adaptations have, and will continue to be, completed within an 8 week timescale.

The approved 2011/12 budget is £875K, and Cabinet will be requested on 1 August to approve additional £475K [virement from Decent Homes Future Years provision] to give, if approved, a total investment in 2011/12 of £1.35 million required to meet demand in this year.

Assessment of available resources to meet future demand will be determined as part of the budget setting process in the coming months with proposed adaptations investment for 2012/13 and future years is due to be submitted to Council later in the year

12. Outsourcing Council Services

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Smith

Is there a list of Council services to be outsourced over the next year or two and if so can that be shared with the Council?

Answer

The Cabinet does not have a planned outsourcing list.

13. Collection of Side Waste

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Fitzhenry

What are the arrangements for the collection of side waste now and post industrial action?

Answer

From 5th July, side waste has been collected by council teams as part of scheduled collections. Contractors will be collecting all residual waste this week and the Council's teams will be expected to perform similarly on their return to work.

14. Warlock Report

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Moulton

The 2009 Warlock report recommended some important issues for children's services, is the Cabinet Member confident that these issues have been tackled with long term solutions e.g. issues like the; social work case loads, accommodation, supervision and organisational culture?

Answer

The Southampton Review of Inter-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, produced by David Worlock, had 94 agreed recommendations. These have been implemented by a number of agencies there are 5 remaining recommendations to be implemented; these may require extra resources or further developmental work which is being explored. The implementation of the recommendations is overseen by the Stay Safe Steering Group, which is a sub group of the Children and Young People's Trust Board. Progress is also overseen by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Southampton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Social work case loads are regularly under review by the Safeguarding Services Management Team, the Director of Children's Services, the Chief Executive and Cabinet member. Caseloads are rising to between 25 – 35; there is a rigorous action plan to reduce caseloads again to within 20-25 per worker.

The accommodation has been reconfigured and improved since David Worlock's report. Supervision and its frequency are regularly monitored by the Head of Service and Principal Officer. Supervision rooms require booking and are largely available with some planning. The organisational culture has improved and can be demonstrated by the three Ofsted inspections that have taken place. Unannounced, July 10, Private Fostering Dec 10 and Unannounced May 11.

15. Services for Children

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Moulton

What outcomes of the review of the commissioning services for children aged 0 - 6 have been implemented and what has been the impact on health visiting (important part of early intervention an important issue of the recent Allen Report)?

Answer

The Allen review highlighted the importance (and cost effectiveness) of intervening early, particularly in the first 3 years of a child's life, to ensure they are ready for school and to prevent poor outcomes in later life. As a result the City has retained its network of 14 Sure Start children's centres ensuring we are providing the best possible universal and targeted Early Intervention services.

NHS Southampton City are leading a commissioning review of Health Visiting Services to deliver the national vision, working with local authority commissioners, and in doing so are taking account of the Health & Family Support Review for Children Under 5 (2010). The model for Health Visiting will support delivery of key health outcomes in early years.

The review recommended the use of evidence based Early Intervention programmes, 2 of which are already available in Southampton: The Family Nurse Partnership is jointly funded by the local authority (children's centres) and health and has so far reached 120 of our most vulnerable teenage parents and their children (0-2 year olds). The early years module of the Incredible Years Parenting Programme is delivered by trained children's centres practitioners to support and develop parenting skills.

16. Children's Services Workers

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Moulton

Will the Council be paying its children's services workers more to ensure valuable, experienced staff are not tempted away by other local authorities? If so how much more?

Answer

No, we are not paying Children's social workers more; we are paying a market supplement whilst we undertake a pay review. We cannot pre-empt the outcome of the review.

17. Young Offenders

Question from Councillor Stevens to Councillor Moulton

Does the Cabinet Member agree that young offenders should be given "looked after" status particularly as The Ministry of Justice is expected to transfer resources to councils so children's services meet the costs of young people remanded in custody?

Answer

Young offenders would not be given "looked after" status purely on the basis of being a young offender.

We are aware of the proposal to transfer resources to the Council to meet the cost of young people remanded in custody and we would wish to ensure that the resources transferred by the Ministry of Justice are sufficient to meet the cost of young people in custody.

18. Nameplate Poles

Question from Councillor Drake to Councillor Baillie

Would the Cabinet Member please inform Council when it was decided to erect 'totem pole' style nameplate poles on green areas in the City, how many have been erected and can he provide a breakdown of the cost of erecting these?

Answer

It is assumed the 'totem pole' description is referring to the recently installed Park Identity Markers at Weston Shore (x4), Donkey Common (x2), Mayfield Park (x2), Freemantle Common (x2), Mayflower Park (x1), Hum Hole (x1), Freemantle Lake Park (x1) and Mansel Park (x2) in order to promote the green spaces, which all too often get overlooked by those passing in vehicles. We are also in the process of putting up 4 around the Southampton Common to show people coming into Southampton that they are passing through a common and not just on a main road.

The idea of the markers is to let those passing (in particular motor vehicles) know that they are passing or driving through one of Southampton's fantastic parks or green spaces, hopefully they will then come back and use it. They have been sympathetically designed to fit in with our green spaces, but are prominent enough to be noticed and reduce the customer feedback comment "I didn't know that park existed" (often said about Mayfield Park for instance).

The identity markers were approved by the Neighbourhoods Director in January 2011 and discussed with previous Cabinet Member for Local Services and Community Safety. The markers at Freemantle Common were discussed with Cllr Drake as part of the overall improvements, in February 2011.

Park Identity Markers are only installed where we have capital or developer contributions (£106) to cover their cost. They cost £622.50 supplied and installed. There have been a number of positive comments received about the signs and to date we have not received any adverse comments about them. There are plans to roll out installation of further posts as capital and developer funding allows for relevant parks and green spaces.

19. Staff Vacancies

Question from Councillor Vinson to Councillor Smith

Is the Leader concerned at the high number of vacancies in some areas of the Council, and what steps are being taken to fill vacancies particularly in the following areas where the numbers currently approach or exceed 50%?

Children's Services and Learning Directorate:

Family and Community Focused (Youth Services); Economic Wellbeing; 11-19 Advisers; Children in Need Social Workers; Educational Psychology, Inclusion and Welfare; Our House and The Arc residential care; Health and Adult Social Care Directorate: Respite and Adult Placement; Later Years;

Economic Development Directorate: Management Team; Thornhill Plus You / Motiv8; Capital development; Programme Management; Regeneration and renewal; Library Assistants; Environment Directorate: School Crossing Patrols; and Neighbourhoods Directorate: Customer Services; Private Housing

Answer

The Recruitment team is currently recruiting into 184 vacancies across the Council.

Following the Comprehensive Spending Review, there is a complete recruitment freeze of permanent employees apart from in areas of exceptional need where the use of temporary cover is either financially excessive or operationally problematic.

All Managers must firstly consider whether the post needs to be filled or not. Approval to fill a vacancy (internally or externally) must be sought from the Management Board of Directors and Head of Organisational Development. If it is considered a vacancy must be filled, then the following process applies:

1. HR Pay will follow the Job Matching process in order that those on the Redeployment Register are considered in the first instance. (HR Pay activity)
2. Ring fencing, either within the team, service area or directorate as appropriate following discussion with HR Pay
3. Internal advert – council wide
4. Use of Talent Bank (HR Pay to 'search' the Hampshire Recruitment Portal, presenting managers with candidates with the skills to match requirements)
5. External advert on the Hampshire Recruitment Portal (if seeking to advertise the vacancy concurrently in the first instance, agreement from Organisational Development must be sought)
6. External advert in local/national press

The above process will save time and money whilst providing opportunities for employee development and retention.

20. Expenditure on redundancy and early retirement

Question from Councillor Barnes-Andrews to Councillor Hannides

Can the Cabinet Member confirm the actual expenditure on redundancy and early retirement payments compared with the budget for 2010/11?

Answer

The actual redundancy and early retirement expenditure accounted for in 2010/11 was £3.7M. A sum of £2M had been provisionally earmarked within the Organisational Development Reserve to cover redundancy payments in 2010/11, and funding was also available within the reserve to cover future years (total funding available £7M).

The total expenditure of £3.7M has therefore been funded in full from the Organisational Development Reserve.

21. Youth Parliament

Question from Councillor Turner to Councillor Moulton

Could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning inform Council about the present position of the Youth Parliament?

Answer

The City's youth parliament had its last meeting in its current format in March of this year. This is in response to a number of factors. Firstly attendance at the monthly meetings was dwindling with less than 20 young people regularly attending. Secondly less than 7% of the 700 young people surveyed in a recent consultation indicated that the best way to gain the views of young people was through a citywide youth council or parliament. Thirdly, there has been a need to review practice in the light of ongoing budget pressures, to ensure we find the most effective and efficient way of doing things.

In April this year an informal meeting was hosted by officers to discuss with representatives of the Southampton City Youth Parliament ways of working in the future which included working more closely with schools. A follow up meeting working with the City's UKyouthMP is planned during the summer.

22. Itchen Toll Bridge

Question from Councillor Mrs Blatchford to Councillor Fitzhenry

In relation to the Itchen Toll Bridge:

- (a) Could the Cabinet Member confirm that the revenue taken on the Itchen Toll Bridge during the dispute tallied with the number of vehicles passing through the plaza?
- (b) What method of recording the 50 pence flat rate was used and how was it recorded?
- (c) Why were Southampton residents who use concessionary tokens asked for a red off peak token rather than the blue peak token?
- (d) What part of the Hampshire Act 1983 or City of Southampton Itchen Bridge Toll Order was used to levy the flat rate 50p charge or variable token payments?
- (e) Why were those asking for a receipt offered ones not tallying with the day or time of day when passing through the toll plaza?

Answer

The Itchen Toll is an essential element of the City's transportation strategy. The Toll dissuades the use of this route by commuters and large vehicles to the detriment of surrounding communities and the City centre.

During the recent industrial action, Managers in the service area have supplemented the reduced staff numbers to ensure that there is sufficient cover at least during the peak hours to maintain the integrity of the strategy.

The decision to reduce the tariff to a flat rate of 50p was made to accommodate the untrained staff and reduce the potential for traffic delays over classification and charge queries.

The current arrangements were cleared with internal audit and legal services prior to being implemented.

In respect to the specific questions raised, I can confirm the following:-

- (a) Although the vehicle classification system is switched off, the system still records the number of vehicles passing each booth. Tokens and cash can therefore be reconciled.
- (b) The decision to adopt a 50p flat rate is an operational decision and has been discussed with me. It establishes a consistent charge through the day and is a practical solution.
- (c) The red token provides the established concession to the 50p charge. It should be noted that not all users of the bridge have both coloured tokens and therefore either colour are accepted.
- (d) The Council is agreeing to accept less than the standard toll under composition arrangements under s.29 of the Act (ie we are effectively accepting a 'settlement' figure for the toll during any period of industrial action.) which is permitted as long as nobody within any specific class of vehicles is given preference over others within the same class.

The Hampshire Act allows for charging changes to be made providing this is advertised. This was done via the website and by posters displayed in the Toll Booths

- (e) Without the vehicle classification system in operation, no real time receipts can be issued. However, receipts are given for the correct day and as close to the time as possible. In isolated cases some receipts may have been handed out with the wrong date, but this no longer occurs.

28. MOTIONS

(a) Fluoridation

Councillor Drake moved and Councillor Turner seconded:-

“This Council notes that, following the disbanding of Regional Health Authorities, the responsibility for fluoridation schemes will fall to local authorities. This Council therefore urges the Executive, on behalf of the Council, to use its

present and future influence to reverse the decision to add fluoride to Southampton's water".

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Smith:

AMENDMENT

In the 1st line, after the words "Regional Health Authorities", add: "in 2013",

In the 2nd line, after the words "responsibility for fluoridation schemes will fall to", delete the words "local authorities. This Council therefore urges the Executive, on behalf of the Council, to use its present and future influence to reverse the decision to add fluoride to Southampton's water."

and replace with "Public Health England. Council further notes that the passing of the Health Bill will give Southampton City Council leadership responsibility for dental health. Council urges the Executive to investigate what powers local authorities will have with regard to fluoridation schemes following the passing of the Bill but notes that powers to reverse the planned local fluoridation scheme rest with Parliament and primary legislation. Council resolves to debate this matter more fully at the September Council meeting when it is anticipated that a petition will be presented by Hampshire Against Fluoridation."

Amended Motion to read:

"This Council notes that, following the disbanding of Regional Health Authorities in 2013, the responsibility for fluoridation schemes will fall to Public Health England. Council further notes that the passing of the Health Bill will give Southampton City Council leadership responsibility for dental health. Council urges the Executive to investigate what powers local authorities will have with regard to fluoridation schemes following the passing of the Bill but notes that powers to reverse the planned local fluoridation scheme rest with Parliament and primary legislation. Council resolves to debate this matter more fully at the September Council meeting when it is anticipated that a petition will be presented by Hampshire Against Fluoridation."

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED CARRIED

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion as amended be approved.

(b) Industrial dispute

Councillor Dr R Williams altered and moved and Councillor Letts seconded:-

ALTERATION

Delete everything after industrial dispute...

Altered motion to read:

“Council calls on the Executive to support the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's request to return to talks to resolve the current industrial dispute.

Amendment moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Drake:

AMENDMENT

In the 1st line, after the words “the Executive” insert the words “and Trades Unions”

In the 3rd line, after the words “current industrial dispute”, add “without preconditions’.

Amended Motion to read:

‘Council calls on the Executive and Trades Unions to support the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's request to return to talks to resolve the current industrial dispute without preconditions’

Further amendment moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Moulton:

AMENDMENT

In the first line delete ‘calls on’ and replace with ‘welcomes the support given to’ – delete ‘to support’ and replace with ‘by’

In the second line delete ‘request to return to’ and replace with ‘in respect of the measures taken by SCC to protect services, jobs and the lowest paid. Council further resolves to support the Executive in pursuing’

In the third line after “industrial dispute” add ‘and welcomes the commitment by the Leader of the Council to continue dialogue with the trade unions with the aim of reaching an agreement.’

Amended Motion to read:

Council welcomes the support given to the Executive by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of the measures taken by SCC to protect services, jobs and the lowest paid. Council further resolves to support the Executive in pursuing talks to resolve the current industrial dispute and welcomes the commitment by the Leader of the Council to continue dialogue with the trade unions with the aim of reaching an agreement”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR VINSON WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SMITH WAS DECLARED CARRIED

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion as amended be approved.

29. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OR THE MAYOR

Question from Councillor Barnes-Andrews to Councillor Jones:

Unit A, Bakers Wharf, 20-40 Millbank Street

Can the Chair of Planning and Rights of Way Panel confirm when the Council will take action against Unit A, Bakers Wharf, 20-40 Millbank Street?

Answer

A planning application has been submitted to the Council for works which have been carried out to the unit. The applicant is of the opinion that these works have improved the situation since the Enforcement Notice was served. The planning team is considering the application and currently expect to submit the application to the Planning and Rights of Way Panel meeting on 16th August 2011 for determination. It is recommended that action is not pursued until the planning application has been determined as the application will assess whether the nuisance has ceased.

30. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Members noted that consideration had been given to nominations to serve as Independent Members of the Standards and Governance Committee. Although there was only a requirement to appoint 3 Members, Council were recommended to appoint a fourth member.

RESOLVED that the following Independent Members be appointed to the Standards and Governance Committee:

Brian Hooper
David Blake
Geoff Wilkinson
Mrs Elizabeth Hale

31. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture was submitted concerning the Financial Statements for 2010/11 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that it be noted that the Financial Statements 2010/11 had been signed by the Chief Financial Officer; and
- (ii) that it be noted that the approval of the Financial Statements 2010/11 by the Standards and Governance Committee would take place on 23 September, subject to any changes required after the completion of the Audit. Any such changes would be presented to the Audit Committee.

32. GENERAL FUND REVENUE OUTTURN FOR 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture was submitted concerning the general fund revenue outturn for 2010/11 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

Amendment moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Drake

AMENDMENT

Recommendation (v):

Delete the word 'use' and replace with 'retention'

Delete the words 'to maintain the Organisational Development Reserve as set out in paragraph 19' and replace with 'in Balances.'

AMENDED Recommendation (v) to read:

Approves the retention of £3,986,600 of the 2010/11 under spend in Balances

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE, THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

RESOLVED

- (i) that the final outturn for 2010/11 detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (ii) that the performance of individual Portfolios in managing their budgets as set out in paragraph 9 of the report together with the major variances in Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (iii) that the addition to the Revenue Development Fund of £100,000 as set out in paragraph 15 of the report be approved;
- (iv) that the carry forward requests totalling £629,000 (of which £158,000 relates to central repairs and maintenance) as outlined in paragraph 18 and set out in detail in Appendix 3 to the report be approved;
- (v) that the use of £3,986,600 of the 2010/11 under spend to maintain the Organisational Development Reserve as set out in paragraph 19 of the report be approved.

33. GENERAL FUND CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture was submitted concerning the general fund capital outturn for 2010/11 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the actual capital spending in 2010/11 as shown in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report be noted together with the major variances in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that the proposed capital financing in 2010/11 as shown in paragraph 10 of the report be approved;
- (iii) that the revised estimates for 2011/12 as adjusted for slippage and re-phasing as shown in Appendix 3 to the report be noted;
- (iv) that it be noted that the capital programme continues to run a deficit of £9.2M, (as reported in February) and that the over programming is within the previously approved tolerances;
- (v) that due to delays in the receipt of anticipated capital receipts it be noted that an additional £2.7M had to be borrowed to fund the 2010/11 programme which is in line with delegated powers approved in September 2008; and
- (vi) that it be noted that there will be a potential need to undertake additional borrowing to fund the 2011/12 programme if the anticipated capital receipts are delayed further.

34. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing was submitted concerning the housing revenue account and capital outturn for 2010/11 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the HRA revenue outturn for the financial year 2010/11, which shows a favourable variance for the year of £422,900 and balances at the end of the year of £1,622,900 be noted;
- (ii) that the revenue carry forward of £250,000 for helping to fund the Mobile Working project in 2011/12 be approved;
- (iii) that the capital outturn for 2010/11 be noted;
- (iv) that the amendments to the HRA Capital Programme for 2011/12 set out in Appendix 3 to the report to take account of the slippage and re-phasing in 2010/11 be approved; and
- (v) that it be noted that the use of the additional resources will be considered as part of the update of the capital programme that will be reported to Council in September.

NOTE: Councillor Drake declared a personal interest in the above matter, as a Council tenant, and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

35. REVIEW OF PRUDENTIAL LIMITS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2010/11

The report of the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) was submitted concerning the treasury management activities for 2010/11 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Treasury Management (TM) activities for 2010/11 and the outturn on the Prudential Indicators be noted; and
- (ii) that it be noted that the continued proactive approach to TM has led to reduced borrowing costs (compared to that estimated) and safeguarded investment income during the year.

36. COLLECTION FUND OUTURN 2010/11

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Leisure and Culture was submitted concerning the actual payments made to and from the collection fund during the 2010/11 financial year (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the accounts for the Collection Fund in 2010/11 as shown in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

37. COUNCIL PLAN

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted seeking approval for the draft 2011- 2014 Council Plan (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the draft 2011- 2014 Council Plan, including the top 7 priorities for the Council as detailed in the Plan be approved;
- (ii) that the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as set out in the report, which will be reflected in the final version of the Plan be noted;
- (iii) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the Council Plan, including incorporating any changes made at the meeting and to refresh relevant sections of the Plan in 2012 and 2013 so that it aligns with any new budgetary or policy developments which will impact on the Council's activities during 2011- 2014.

38. THE SOUTHAMPTON HOUSING STRATEGY 2011 - 2015 AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2011 - 2041

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing was submitted detailing the Southampton Housing Strategy 2011 - 2015 and Housing Revenue Account Business

Plan 2011 – 2041, which form part of the Council’s policy framework (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the draft revised Housing Strategy (incorporating the Private Housing Renewal Strategy) and HRA Business Plan be approved;
- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Housing Solutions to make final amendments to the Housing Strategy 2011 – 2015; and
- (iii) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Decent Homes to make final amendments to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2011 – 2041.

NOTE: Councillor Drake declared a personal interest in the above matter, as a Council tenant, and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.