
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
16 MARCH 2016

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Norris
The Sheriff, Councillor McEwing
Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner (item 90 onwards),
Chamberlain, Claisse, Coombs, Daunt, Denness, Fitzhenry, Furnell, Galton,
Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Hecks, Houghton, Inglis, Jeffery, Jordan,
Kaur, Keogh (item 86 onwards), Letts, Lewzey, Lloyd, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton,
Noon, O'Neill, Painton, Parnell (items 82 - 96 only), Payne, Pope, Rayment, Shields,
Spicer, Thomas, Tucker, Vassiliou, Whitbread, White and Wilkinson

82. APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fuller and Smith.

83. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meetings held on 18 November 2015 and 10 February 2016 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16 December 2015 be approved and signed as correct records, subject to minute 74 being amended to reference that the motion in the name of Councillor Pope was a vote of no confidence in the Mayor.

84. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) Last Meeting of the Municipal Year

As this was the last meeting of the municipal year and the last meeting before the elections in May, the Mayor took the opportunity to say goodbye to those councillors who would not be standing for re-election and to those who did, but did not retain their seat. On behalf of the Council, she thanked them for their hard work and the contribution they had made during their period in office.

(ii) German Students

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting German students from the University of Hof who were observing the proceedings.

85. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Council received and noted a deputation from Mr. A. Minto concerning Action for Rail.

86. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted setting out the details of the business undertaken by the Executive.

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. Townhill Park Regeneration Scheme

Question from Councillor Inglis to Councillor Payne

Could you please advise how many homes have been built and occupied on the Townhill Park Regeneration Scheme?

Answer

The Council approved the budgets for site preparation at Townhill Park in December 2012 and the decanting of tenants began in April 2013. This was carried out in 3 phases to reduce impact on the Council's substantial waiting list. 121 Council tenants and 14 leaseholders have now vacated, with one leaseholder remaining with whom negotiations continue. A demolition contract has commenced for the demolition of 7 of the 8 blocks in phase one and is programmed to conclude in September 2016. A planning application has been lodged and is expected to go to Planning Panel on April 12th 2016. The procurement process for commencing the first phase is underway.

In the meantime 33 homes have been constructed and are occupied in the scheme known as Pond View, this scheme was completed in December 2014.

2. Use of Consultants

Question from Councillor Inglis to Councillor Chaloner

Could you please advise how much the Council has spent on consultants in this financial year and provide details of the 5 largest projects?

Answer

So far this year the amount spent on Consultants from the General Fund budget is £870,751.30

The five largest projects are as follows:

Price Waterhouse Coopers for expertise and advice on the transformation project.
AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd for a preliminary study for the River Itchen Flood Alleviation scheme.

Price Waterhouse Coopers for work on creating a development company to deliver housing stock.

Ricardo-AEA to write a draft low emissions strategy for the Council.

Ameo Professional Services Ltd for consultants working on the transformation project. Further information can be provided separately if required.

3. Cash Payments

Question from Councillor Parnell to Councillor Chaloner

What procedures are in place for residents to pay cash for services required?

Answer

Most Council services can currently be paid for with cash. There is a central cash office next to Gateway in One Guildhall Square and currently two housing offices that take cash payments for most services (Council Tax, Rents, Rates, Parking Fines, Garden Waste etc). Other venues such as Registrars, Licensing, SeaCity and Schools take cash for the specific services they provide. There is also the option to pay Council Tax at the Post Office network using giro-slips and Housing tenants can pay for rent and council tax using Paypoint cards at the Paypoint network.

4. **“Stipples”**

Question from Councillor Parnell to Councillor Rayment

Whilst good for the blind, is the Cabinet Member aware of the discomfort that “stipples” cause people in wheelchairs?

Answer

Tactile paving is designed to nationally defined standards and is installed to assist visually impaired pedestrians when crossing roads and it has been for many years standard practice to install it at controlled and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points.

When laid correctly the pattern should ensure that the wheels of wheelchairs should be able to run between the raised dots, when aligned in a straight line across the crossing point.

5. **Council run services**

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Letts

In total how many, and which, directly Council-run public services have stopped being directly-run since May 2012?

Answer

The following services have stopped being directly run by the Council:

The ROMANSE traffic centre

CCTV service

City Catering

Kennelling

Oaklands Pool

Nutfield

St Denys

Day services were consolidated and restructured and not closed.

Play services:

- Sessions of open access play provision across three sites every week

Youth services:

- Approx 30 sessions of open access youth provision (a further 30 sessions had been reduced in previous 2 years) – much of this work included: trips, residential activities, health education, crime diversion etc.
- Daily targeted programmes to support Compass Centre
- Support for Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme in city schools
- Annual K2 music and arts festival in Hoglands park and support events
- Youth Information Project (Web based information service for young people)
- School based activity around themes, i.e knife crime, gangs, sexual health, hate crime
- Breakout – (gay lesbian transgender project) (weekly)
- Safe House programme – for young people with mental health (twice weekly)
- Youth Engagement:
 - Southampton City Youth Parliament (monthly forum and spin off sub groups)
 - Support for the UK Youth MP programme and elections
 - Youth Access programme – team of young people (paid volunteers auditing the accessibility of services for children and young people) – 20 plus audits a year
- Youth Achievement Awards programme for young people outside of / struggling to engage in formal education.

6. Right to buy receipts

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Payne

Officers of the Council have confirmed to me that money from Right-To-Buy receipts has been lost back to Government. How much money has been lost, and why, in each year since May 2012? How much interest has been paid back in each year? Why did the Cabinet not know that Aster could not spend the money when the Cabinet decided to give it to Aster for their site at the former Bush Inn pub on Wimpson Lane?

Answer

Since 2012 the Council has been able to retain some Right-To-Buy (RTB) receipts from the sale of Council homes to existing tenants, provided it can demonstrate that it has spent a sufficient amount on replacement affordable housing, on at least a 'one for one' basis. The RTB receipts have to be spent within three years of receipt and can fund up to a maximum of 30% of the total cost of new build, with the Council, or partners, required to fund the remaining 70%. Any receipts not spent within three years must be repaid to Government with interest. In addition, strict rules have subsequently been put in place as to how the money can be spent.

No receipts were repaid to Government in 2012/13, 2013/14 or 2014/15 as the 3 year period had not elapsed on any RTB sales.

No receipts were repaid to Government in quarters 1 and 2 of 2015/16 as the Council were able to demonstrate sufficient spend on new affordable housing to meet the requirements of the retained RTB receipts agreement.

The plan for the latter part of 2015/16 included 30% grant funding to Aster Housing for the development at the site of the former Bush Inn. Aster were funding their 70% of this scheme using rent conversion funding. On 2nd February 2016 Aster contacted the Council to say that they has been subsequently advised by the Homes & Communities Agency that 'one for one' RTB funding cannot be used in conjunction with conversion capacity funding as the same new affordable homes will in effect be counted twice. In view of this, Aster declined the RTB funding and will rely on their own internal subsidy together with the conversion capacity to fund the scheme. This information was not apparent when the Cabinet decision around funding for the Bush Inn was made in November 2015.

Crucially, while the Aster grant was made before the deadline for the funding to be used, it was handed back to the Council after the deadline had passed. The Council was able to transfer the majority of this funding to other projects already in progress (such as the Existing Satisfactory Purchase Scheme) which is allowable, but that left a residual sum of £189,411 of unallocated RTB receipts at the end of quarter 3, plus the calculated daily interest of £27,347, which the Council was left with no opportunity to spend due to the late return of the grant.

7. Renovations for Blocks in Irving Road

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Payne

Why were the external renovations planned for the walk up blocks in Irving Road put back, especially after being advertised to tenants who have been waiting for years for them to be done? What assurances can the cabinet give to me, other local Councillors and the residents; all of who feel gravely let down by the Labour run Council's decision to postpone this vital work.

Answer

The external renovations (painting etc) for these blocks are part of an overall cyclical decorating programme which is to be carried out across the city over a period of 5 years, these particular blocks were originally programmed to receive the "works" being carried out in the financial year of 2016/17.

With the confirmation of the substantial planned Energy Company Obligation (ECO) works at Sturminster House commencing shortly it was decided that it would be difficult to carry out any external decoration/renovations to surrounding blocks until the major scheme was complete. The wider project includes external cladding, new windows, new roof and a separately located micro boiler house providing a new heating solution for residents of Sturminster House.

The intended ECO works will mean a high level of activity within the area of Irving Road, including deliveries by lorries, site office/welfare set up, construction of the new boiler house, external scaffolding etc, all of which will cause some restrictions to access in some areas which will impact on local residents.

For SCC to then instruct another contractor to carry out works at the same time in the same location would further impact on any restrictions; potentially causing issues with our residents accessing their homes and their parking arrangements.

Therefore, the external renovations have been re-programmed to commence immediately upon completion of the ECO works which we anticipate to be early in 2017. It should be noted that the ECO works are being partially grant funded and have to be completed by Jan 2017 to receive the specific grant allowance.

8. Millbrook / Maybush Regeneration

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Payne

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the earliest anticipated delivery date of any of the specific estate regeneration work for the Millbrook & Maybush area and which project element is most likely to be the first delivered by Labour?

Answer

The first project in the Millbrook & Maybush area will be the redevelopment of the Woodside Lodge/Wimpson Lane site. This will deliver 80 extra care units, similar to the Erskine Court scheme which is nearing completion and 15 general needs units. Work has commenced on the procurement of a contractor and work is programmed to start later this year.

Additional plans for Millbrook and Maybush are evolving in consultation with local residents and the stakeholder group. Once firmer proposals are agreed with residents and stakeholders, the Council will be able to set out a detailed timetable.

9. Sports Centre Lake

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Kaur

Despite the fact the Council has a duty to provide suitable habitat under its biodiversity policy, in January 2016 the council decided to prevent the Sports Centre lake from filling which will have a disastrous impact on several critically endangered amphibians. The Council/Active Nation's reason for this is *"Due to the risk this poses of potential drowning". "It is a legal requirement law to conduct a suitable and sufficient risk assessment which has been done and concluded that a dry lake is safer, less hazardous and lower risk than a filled lake."*

Why were the complaints and comments of numerous residents and wildlife organisations ignored in this decision and when will this policy be logically extended to the emptying of every lake in the city?

Answer

The location and state of the boating lake and water that may be contained within it, is different to other bodies of water. Risk Assessments are specific to each situation. Whilst comments and complaints have been received from a limited number of people, these do not necessarily reflect the view of the majority, indeed the Friends group support the Council's position. This view is supported by the broader consultation exercise carried out recently, the results of which will be presented to Cabinet on 19th April.

10. Carbon Footprint

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Payne

More and more councils are embracing the use of green technology to reduce their carbon footprint. For example Epping Forest District Council, has installed solar panels on two of the roofs at their civic offices which is estimated to make an annual saving of £10,000 with the initial cost paid back in just over six years. What steps are SCC making to reduce our carbon footprint?

Answer

Southampton City Council has undertaken a wide ranging programme of energy efficiency works across the estate, some of which I will now outline:-

We have already installed 358kW of Photo Voltaic (Solar) Panels across the council housing estate, saving energy and generating feed in tariff (FIT) income of £75,000 per year;

We have delivered extensive programme to improve council housing energy efficiency, including biomass CHP and solid wall insulation;

We are now investigating a wood-chipping project for waste wood to use in biomass boilers across the estate;

We have delivered a programme of wide ranging energy efficiency improvements in council run buildings such as LED lighting, insulation and heating improvements;

We have installed solar panels on appropriate corporate buildings and schools;

We have delivered the replacement of lamps with LED in multi-storey car parks;

We have delivered in partnership with SSE the replacement of street lighting with higher efficiency lamps;

We are managing a programme to reduce schools' energy consumption;

We are minimising fleet emissions by purchasing low emission vehicles and equipment.

Since 2012, buildings efficiency works undertaken on corporate sites, excluding PV panels, will pay back within 5 years and are expected to save the Council approximately £150,000 per year in avoided energy costs.

We continue to monitor advancements in energy efficiency technology and will include PV in new developments where appropriate alongside other cost and energy efficient measures to improve resident's lives and reduce our carbon footprint.

11. Hanover Buildings/Bargate Street Traffic Restrictions

Question from Councillor Hecks to Councillor Rayment

The present 'bus only' restrictions from Hanover Buildings into Bargate Street prevent Blue Badge guides offering their passengers a decent, close up view of the Bargate and the town walls. Will the Cabinet Member undertake, as a matter of urgency, to review the current restrictions with a view to permitting coaches – which after all are no more than 'private' buses – to use this link?

Answer

There is currently a traffic order that applies to Bargate Street and a section of Hanover Buildings that intentionally restricts traffic to local buses and cycles. For

this purpose "local bus" means a public service vehicle used for the provision of a local service not being an excursion or tour.

Any proposal to open the road to all buses would open the road to any vehicle with more than 8 passenger seats (e.g. minibuses) and there would then be similar claims from taxi's to have permitted access which would create much un-needed congestion and conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in this area. Parking and loading restrictions would be also required, with associated signing.

As with most traffic and parking regulations there are disadvantages as well as advantages. On balance given the importance of maintaining pedestrian flow to the Old Town, the principle of minimising traffic on Bargate Street would still be appropriate from a Highways viewpoint.

12. Kathleen Road Resurfacing

Question from Councillor Hecks to Councillor Rayment

Balfour Beatty has accepted that the eastern end of Kathleen Road requires urgent remedial drainage work and resurfacing but the current road programme says that drainage issues are under investigation and treatment considered in the next 4-5 years. The drainage scheme has been designed and is ready to implement. Will the Cabinet Member commit this Council to implementation of the whole scheme – drainage and resurfacing – within the next two months?

Answer

Yes, this work is programmed in.

The section of Kathleen Road from Bursledon Road to Cleethorpes Road is in poor condition and has deteriorated substantially in the last year. Because of the poor quality of the existing drainage, water is sitting in the channels rather than running away and this means it gets into the road construction and causes it to break up. This is compounded by the fact that it is a busy signalised junction so you have a lot of vehicles braking, pulling away and turning which causes further delamination of the road surface.

The proposed scheme start date is 3 May 2016, with initial work being the relaying of concrete channels and associated drainage improvements, once this has completed resurfacing will take place.

The remainder of Kathleen Road between Cleethorpes and Alfriston Gardens is in better condition and works are planned for 2018/19.

13. Millbrook Towers/maintenance on Council properties

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Payne

Following speculation from the public that Millbrook Towers would be demolished as part of Regeneration, you confirmed in writing to me in July 2015 "that the council has no existing plans to dismantle Millbrook Towers". Is this still the case, and can you confirm the total spent on maintenance since May 2012 to (i) Redbridge Towers, (ii) Millbrook Towers, (iii) in total on all Council-owned properties in Redbridge ward that are of non-standard (i.e. not brick) construction?

Answer

The Council has no plans to dismantle Millbrook Towers.

The following table represents the information available from the Housing system on repairs history for the Redbridge Ward since 1/5/2012 and includes repairs to individual properties and common parts of blocks.

PROPERTIES	NON_TRAD	TRAD	TOTAL
REDBRIDGE TOWERS	106		
MILLBROOK TOWERS	133		
OTHER	1676	765	
TOTAL COUNCIL OWNED	1915	765	2680

REPAIR ORDER VAL	NON_TRAD	TRAD	TOTAL
MILLBROOK TOWERS	26,043		26,043
REDBRIDGE TOWERS	15,849		15,849
OTHER	3,354,376	1,371,416	4,725,792
			4,767,685

14. Millbrook/Maybush Regeneration

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Payne

At the recent public meeting on the Labour Administration's plans for Millbrook and Maybush Regeneration, in response to local resident's questions, I believe you stated that around 20 Council-owned homes have been built. Can you confirm this figure, and also state the total of Council-owned homes that have been built in each ward since May 2012?

Answer

Over the last two years the City Council has provided 27 new homes in the city. These are made up of the following:

- 17 new properties at Selbourne Avenue in Harefield and Oatlands Housing in Shirley specifically to provide temporary accommodation for families and individuals threatened with Homelessness;
- 2 large properties acquired for additional family housing, in Coxford and Redbridge; and
- 8 individual properties that have been purchased through an Existing Satisfactory Purchase Scheme utilising retained Right to Buy Receipts.

15. Play equipment at Cedar Park Lodge

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Rayment

How much longer will residents need to wait for the replacement of the vandalised play equipment in cedar lodge park?

Answer

The works are on order and we have a start date of 11th April, weather permitting. The Works will include replacing the vandalised/burnt basket round-a-bout and replacing the loose fill bark (which needs to be continually topped up) with a lower maintenance rubber safety surface.

16. Maintenance and safety of the public realm

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Rayment

What priority does the current administration place on maintaining a good and safe surface of our public realm spaces in the city and district centres?

Answer

This is a top priority for the Executive.

The Council is investing more than it has ever spent before in maintaining and improving highways and pavements in the city. It is expected that this will turn around the historic under-investment which resulted in highways deteriorating year-on-year and will mean that the quality of the city's highway network is improving. In particular, the administration has identified £500k to invest in pavements and paved areas in the city in 2016-17 – the largest investment of its sort for many years. This is on the back of additional investment in 2015-16 to repair areas such as the paving outside of the Civic Centre.

The Council operates to a regular inspection and repair regime – known as the intervention policy - which is consistent with national good practice and has resulted in a significant reduction in successful injury claims compared to the levels before our Highways Service Partnership began in 2010.

17. America's Cup

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Letts

At the November Full Council I asked a question regarding the Council's lamentable failed bid for the America's Cup opportunity. Following Cllr Letts' reply he was forced to make a public apology to Sir Ben Ainslie. In light of this, why doesn't Cllr Letts also think it necessary to apologise to Members and the people of Southampton for his misleading answer?

Answer

Because it isn't.

18. Albion Towers

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Councillor Payne

How can the Cabinet Member think it was acceptable to consult just 47 residents in a scheme to repaint Albion Towers red and white when hundreds if not thousands of local people would be affected and have to live with this every day?

Answer

All residents of Albion Towers were consulted on proposed designs for the cladding at Albion Towers including options regarding colours. 47 Residents from the block took part/responded to the consultation of which the majority chose the red and white colour scheme.

The proposed colour scheme was published in January's Tenants Link and displayed at the Tenants' Winter Conference in January.

19. Residential Room Standards Policy

Question from Councillor Hecks to Councillor Letts

The Planning and Rights of Way Panel has approved new residential developments where room sizes fall well short of reasonable space standards for modern, comfortable and healthy living since we have no policy in place against which to judge residential room sizes. Will the Cabinet Member commit to a very early review of domestic room size standards with a view to implementing, by way of Supplementary Planning Guidance or any other appropriate policy, standards for domestic room sizes against which applications can be assessed?

Answer

The Council currently has an adopted SPD – the Residential Design Guide, which doesn't currently have internal space standards. To introduce these, would need to be through a change to our local plan policy, which we can start doing now as part of the ongoing local plan review.

20. Affordable Housing

Question from Councillor Claisse to Councillor Payne

In May last year Luton Borough Council and asset manager Cheyne Capital announced the successful start of a project to develop 80 affordable housing units in Luton. Luton Borough Council is working with Cheyne Capital, Lindum Group and QSH to develop a site which is one of the first instances of private capital replacing the funding for social housing previously provided by government grants. Has the Cabinet Member approached Cheyne Capital about the possibility of being involved in a similar scheme in Southampton?

Answer

The Council's Head of Capital Assets has been in contact with Cheyne Capital and has received details about their funding model. A meeting is now being set up to discuss the suitability of their model to the Council's needs. We will also be speaking with Luton Council regarding their experiences of working with Cheyne.

21. Millbrook Library

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Kaur

At a recent OSMC meeting, Cllr Furnell stated that he was pleased that you had kept him fully informed of negotiations on the future of Millbrook Library. In contrast, I have confirmed that myself and other opposition councillors were not kept fully informed despite asking repeatedly for updates, with you and officers publicly claiming confidentiality for not doing so. Have you therefore breached confidentiality and therefore the Code of Conduct in informing Cllr Furnell in this way? Which other councillors did you keep informed with the same detail as Cllr Furnell on the Council stopping running their local libraries, and why?

Answer

At the OSMC meeting of 4th February I provided a detailed update in a confidential session. I understand that officers advised you by e mail on 3rd February that options for Millbrook library were being considered, and on 22nd February you were offered a meeting with officers. At no point did you directly approach me as the Cabinet lead for an update. In some circumstances members have been working directly with groups developing expressions of interest and would inevitably be party to details as part of this role. I do not believe any breach of the code of conduct has taken place.

22. Air Quality

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Rayment

What steps have actually been instigated to improve Southampton's poor air quality since I last asked the same question?

Answer

A proposed implementation plan for the Low Emission Strategy/Clean Air Zone (CAZ) has now been drafted. The plan, subject to approval, proposes a 4 year programme that will culminate in the introduction of a mandatory CAZ. The intervening activities are intended to deliver the necessary improvements as quickly as possible and ensure sustained improvements in air quality beyond 2020.

A bid to Defra's Capital Air Quality Grant Programme has been successful in securing £97k to assist with the implementation of this programme in 2016. This was the largest individual award and represented 20% of the total fund available.

Discussions are currently being held with SCC, DfT and bus operators to divert existing grants and deliver new, CAZ compliant buses into Southampton as early as 2016/17.

A project plan and formal agreement has been established with DP World to identify and trial clean technologies on their straddle carrier fleet. This will be completed by the end of this summer and identify opportunities to deliver tangible improvements within the port.

A new air monitoring station on the A33, Redbridge Road went live in the new year.

Suppliers of solid fuels in the city have been approached and reminded of their responsibility to provide only smokeless fuel in Smoke Control Areas in the city.

23. Safeguarding and Adult Social Care

Question from Councillor Galton to Councillor Shields

Has the Cabinet Member been made aware of my concerns around safeguarding and adults' social care and the role that all the MASH participants play in highlighting and investigating concerns?

Answer

No. I have not been made aware of his concerns around safeguarding and adult social care. Neither have I been made aware of his (unspecified) concerns about the role that all the MASH participants play in highlighting and investigating concerns. Had he made the effort to contact me as Cabinet Member over these issues I am sure that I could have addressed any concerns that he might have.

24. Disturbance

Question from Councillor O'Neill to Rayment

In areas such as Portswood, residents suffer from repeated disturbance at night during term-time caused by students. In the same way as Southampton Football Club contributes towards the cost of policing at football matches, do our universities make a contribution towards the cost of reducing the impact that thousands of students have on our communities? If not why not?

Answer

Additional policing at Sports grounds is specifically provided for in law by an obligation on the stadium as a condition of its safety certificate, and a charging power for the police – under s. 25(1) of the Police Act 1996. The police can charge for “special police services” in their area, provided at the request of any person. Special police services are services over and above the general obligation to maintain law and order and keep the peace and there is clear guidance on what can be charged for.

There is no equivalent power for councils performing their duties under s79-83 the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to deal with noise nuisance. Nor is there a similar obligation on the Universities to secure additional “policing” from the council for noise. They can request special police services, which the police Authority could then consider, but the police do not have powers to deal with noise nuisance.

87. MOTIONS

(a) Housing and Planning Bill and the Welfare Reform and Work Bill

Councillor Furnell moved and Councillor Payne seconded:

“This Council notes the Housing and Planning Bill along with the Welfare Reform and Work Bill will have a significantly damaging impact in Southampton.

It will include:

1. Southampton City Council will have £33m less to spend on housing (£10m due to inflation, £23m directly linked to Government) over the next four years.
2. Under ‘Pay to Stay’, Southampton families earning more than £30,000 per year will forfeit their social rent and be forced to pay full market rent, in some cases, seeing their rent double. Council further notes that a couple earning the living wage could be impacted by Pay to Stay and the only financial beneficiary will be the Tory-led Government.
3. No housing provider, including Southampton, will be able to offer new council tenancies for life. Tenancies will only be temporary (2-5 years) with no lifetime security.
4. The stricter benefit cap (£20,000 per family instead of £26,000) will see the number of tenants affected by the benefit cap in Southampton increase by 20 times (800 up from 39). In conjunction with the introduction of Universal Credit, this Council recognises tenants’ rental debts will almost inevitably increase, harming the Council’s cash flow.
5. To bankroll extending the Right to Buy to housing associations, local authorities will be forced to sell council housing to compensate housing associations for their lost properties. In effect, the loss of one social property will lead to another being lost in consequence.

This Council is gravely worried about these impacts on Southampton. As a result, it calls on all group leaders to sign a joint letter to the city’s three MPs urging them to publicly denounce both bills”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

(b) Environmental Challenges and Climate Change

Councillor Shields moved and Councillor Keogh seconded:

“This Council is concerned at the worrying lack of progress by Government on addressing the nation’s environmental challenges and on tackling man-made climate change, in particular. We are especially disappointed at the reversal of Government policy on green energy and the failure to support adequately local authorities sufficient powers to address poor health resulting from air pollution and to prevent unwanted fracking.

Council recognises the valuable contribution made by the current administration in promoting a cleaner environment in Southampton through initiatives such as the:

1. Introduction of glass recycling.
2. My Journey Campaign promoting modal shift.
3. Working with British Cycling to promote the Southampton Sky Rides.
4. Air quality scrutiny inquiry report.

5. "Keep Britain Tidy" declares Southampton parks to be some of the best in the country in 2014.
6. Investment in play areas across the City.

Council resolves to continue to work with our City MPs in addressing Southampton's environmental challenges and pressing central Government for adequate levels of resources for meeting these".

Amendment moved by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Parnell

"Paragraph one delete all after "This Council is concerned" in line one and replace with "With tackling Southampton's environmental challenges, especially with regard to addressing poor health resulting from air pollution."

In paragraph two after "Council recognises the" delete the word "valuable" in line one

In paragraph two line one after "made" delete "by the current administration"

In paragraph two delete points 5 and 6

In paragraph three delete all after "our City MP's" and replace with "and all other public or private parties who could help address Southampton's environmental challenges, and will continue to lobby for and welcome Government resources, whilst also ensuring issues such as air quality are a core consideration in all we do as a Council."

Amended motion to read:

"This Council is concerned with tackling Southampton's environmental challenges, especially with regard to addressing poor health resulting from air pollution.

Council recognises the contribution made in promoting a cleaner environment in Southampton through initiatives such as the:

1. Introduction of glass recycling.
2. My Journey Campaign promoting modal shift.
3. Working with British Cycling to promote the Southampton Sky Rides.
4. Air quality scrutiny inquiry report.

Council resolves to work with our City MPs and all other public or private parties who could help address Southampton's environmental challenges, and will continue to lobby for and welcome Government resources, whilst also ensuring issues such as air quality are a core consideration in all we do as a Council".

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion as submitted be approved.

(c) Lollipop men and ladies

Councillor Moulton moved and Councillor Inglis seconded:

“Ensuring the safety of children in Southampton should be an absolute priority for the City Council.

Council recognises and values the important role that the City’s dozens of lollipop men and ladies do in keeping local school children safe. Council further notes that with many of our local primary schools expanding, ensuring that children can get to school safely is an ever more pressing issue.

Council therefore regrets the decision by the Labour Administration in February to vote to remove all Council funding for this important service, putting 42 staff at risk of redundancy and discouraging children from walking, cycling and scooting to school”.

Amendment moved by Councillor Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Letts

Delete last paragraph “Council therefore regrets the decision by the Labour Administration in February to vote to remove all Council funding for this important service, putting 42 staff at risk of redundancy and discouraging children from walking, cycling and scooting to school.”

Replace with

“Council notes the Administration’s excellent negotiating strategy in relation to Transformation Project reviews, these have resulted in significant additional financial benefits to the Council.

Council calls on the Executive to use some of these additional savings to maintain a Council funded school crossing patrol service for all schools that have or commit to developing a school travel plan.

Council calls on the Executive to continue to work with school governing bodies to secure additional resources to enhance road safety around our schools.”

Amended motion to read:

“Ensuring the safety of children in Southampton should be an absolute priority for the City Council.

Council recognises and values the important role that the city’s dozens of lollipop men and ladies do in keeping local school children safe. Council further notes that with many of our local primary schools expanding, ensuring that children can get to school safely is an ever more pressing issue.

Council notes the Administration’s excellent negotiating strategy in relation to Transformation Project reviews, these have resulted in significant additional financial benefits to the Council.

Council calls on the Executive to use some of these additional savings to maintain a Council funded school crossing patrol service for all schools that have or commit to developing a school travel plan.

Council calls on the Executive to continue to work with school governing bodies to secure additional resources to enhance road safety around our schools”.

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.

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

1. Mazars Report

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Bogle, Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Bearing in mind the clear failings of leadership identified in the Mazars report into Southern Health, why did you not insist that both the Chief Executive and Chair of Southern Health attend the Extraordinary HOSP meeting? Why were the papers submitted to members at that Extraordinary HOSP allowed to be so flawed with key information missing?

Answer

I asked for an extra meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel to look at the findings of the Mazar’s report on unexplained deaths at Southern Health over a 4 year period in December. It took some time to find a suitable date which was finally scheduled for Monday 1st February 2016. Once agreed, the Chief Executive was invited to attend the meeting; subsequently we were informed that the Chief Executive was on holiday at that time but assurances were made that appropriate representatives from Southern Health’s senior management team would attend the meeting.

Representing Southern Health at the 1 February HOSP meeting were Dr Lesley Stevens, Medical Director and Dr Chris Gordon, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Performance, Quality and Safety, who were able to answer all the questions posed by members of the Panel and members of the public present. Ruth Williams, NHS England Director of Nursing (Wessex) and John Richards, Chief Officer of Southampton City CCG were also in attendance representing the commissioners.

One appendix, the Southern Health Action Plan, was not submitted in its entirety because of problems converting from Excel to Word. This genuine error by Southern Health was picked up, recirculated and put into the public domain as agreed at the meeting. The Panel will be reviewing the issues raised in this report, particularly in light of mental health commissioning plans and what this means for the city until we feel assured that progress is being made.

2. Looked After Children

Question from Councillor Pope to Councillor Keogh, Chair of Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

At a meeting of this Panel in 2015, it was stated that the reasons were unclear as to why Southampton has a relatively high number of Children Looked After compared to comparator cities. Has work been done by the Council to determine the reasons since then? If so, what are the reasons?

Answer

In November 2015 a Looked After Children (LAC) Diagnostic was undertaken in order to gain a clear picture of the children in the care of Southampton. This showed that there was a significant increase in LAC between the years 2009 – 2015 from 66 per 10,000 to 120 per 10,000. The speed of increase accelerated from April 2015 following the Ofsted Inspection of May & July 2014 published 15th September 2014. Changes to Early Help in April 2014 and 4 Serious Case reviews published May/June 2014. The numbers peaked in August 2015 when a new Children in Need Panel and Residential panel started to have an impact along with the decision to accommodate moving from Principal Officer to Director level, which has had a downward impact reducing the numbers to 35 less in March 2016 than in August 2015. The aim of the current work is to reduce the number of children in care to 500 by September 2016, by ensuring that adoption orders are made for children already in adoption placements, more children are placed for adoption and more children move from care to Special Guardianship Orders. There will also be a focus on working effectively with parents as soon as a child is accommodated to rehabilitate the child back home at the earliest opportunity and to return to court for revocation of care orders for children who have successfully returned to the care of their parents and have been home for an extended period of time.

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

It was noted that Councillor McEwing had replaced Councillor Whitbread on the Licensing Committee and that Councillor Whitbread had replaced Councillor McEwing on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

90. SAFE CITY AND YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY UPDATES

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainability was submitted seeking approval to update and amend the existing Safe City and Youth Justice strategies 2014-2017.

RESOLVED that the updated Safe City and Youth Justice strategies be approved.

91. AUTHORITY TO PROCURE A CONTRACEPTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR SOUTHAMPTON FOR 2017-2024

The report of the Director of Quality and Integration was submitted seeking delegated authority from Southampton City Council to enter into a collaborative procurement process with Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and with Local Authority commissioning partners in Hampshire, Portsmouth (and CCGs serving those areas) to secure sexual and reproductive health services for the City.

RESOLVED

- (i) that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Quality and Integration, following consultation with the Director of Public Health, the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Member to recommission the service through a collaborative procurement, subject to the new service being deliverable within approved budgets; and
- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Quality and Integration, after consultation with the Director of Public Health and relevant Cabinet Member and Service Director, to do anything necessary to secure the commissioning of revised arrangements for contraception and sexual health services through a collaborative procurement, up to and including entering into appropriate contract(s).

92. PAY POLICY 2016-2017

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted concerning the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2016-2017.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Pay Policy statement for 2016-2017 be approved;
- (ii) that the June 2015 implementation of a Living Wage as the minimum hourly rate for NJC evaluated posts be noted; and
- (iii) that the application of the full Chief Officer pay scale aligned to the revised Operating Model (application of CO5 grade and differentiated CO1A grade) be approved.

93. SPRINGWELL SCHOOL EXPANSION PHASE 2

The report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care was submitted seeking to increase capacity at Springwell School.

RESOLVED

- (i) that in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £9.67M be added to the Education and Children's Social Care Capital Programme for Phase 2 of the expansion of Springwell School funded from Council resources; and
- (ii) that in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £9.67M, phased £0.10M in 2015/16, £0.70M in 2016/17, £7.70M in 2017/18 and £1.17M in 2018/19 within the Education and Children's Social Care Capital programme to deliver the expansion of the school be approved.

NOTE: Councillor Fitzhenry declared a Pecuniary Interest in the above matter, as a supplier of goods to the school, and left the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

94. NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENT OF A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR A COMBINED AUTHORITY

With the consent of the meeting, Councillor Letts altered and moved his report seeking agreement for a devolution deal and Councillor Jeffery seconded.

RESOLVED

- (i) that following consideration of the updated position, approval be given in principle for the Leader to sign an agreement to be party to any Combined Authority; and
- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to the Leader, following consultation with the Chief Executive and Group Leaders, to undertake detailed negotiations with relevant government departments and public bodies in respect of a proposed devolution deal and to agree final terms subject to public consultation and ratification by Council.

95. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

RESOLVED 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 confidential appendix 3 to the following matter.

Confidential appendix 3 contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. In applying the public interest test the appendix includes information relating to finance or business affairs which, if disclosed prior to entering into a legal contract, could put the Council at a commercial disadvantage.

96. AGREEMENT TO PROCURE HEADSTART PROGRAMMES AND TO DELEGATE POWERS TO AWARD THE CONTRACT

The report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care was submitted seeking authority to accept funds should the above bid be successful, commence a procurement process and to delegate authority to the Director Quality and Integration to award the contract following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care and Service Director Legal and Governance.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, acceptance of the funding, subject to both the bid being successful and agreement of the final conditions of the grant by the Council's Section 151 Officer be approved.

97. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

RESOLVED 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 matter.

The Report and Appendices are considered to be confidential, the confidentiality of which is based on categories 3, 5 and 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because doing so would reveal information which is both commercially sensitive and detrimental to the business affairs of the Council.

98. TRANSFORMATION PROPOSAL

With the consent of the meeting Councillor Letts altered and moved the confidential report concerning the transformation proposal and Councillor Hammond seconded.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the BAFO submitted by Capita be accepted except in relation to the Human Resource (Advisory) and Property services; and
- (ii) That delegated authority be granted to the Transformation Implementation Director, following consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Members for Transformation and Finance, to take all actions necessary to implement:
 - a. the provisions of the BAFO including the necessary changes to the current contract and commercial agreement, and the establishment of a new Capita delivery vehicle and related governance for the services that will continue to be delivered by Capita, and
 - b. the integration of the Human Resource (Advisory) and Property Services with the Council's existing client side functions.