
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15 MAY 2013

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor White (In the Chair Minutes 4-24)
The Sheriff, Councillor Mrs Blatchford
Councillors Burke (In the Chair Minutes 1-3), Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Bogle, Chaloner, Claisse, Cunio, Daunt, Fitzhenry, Furnell, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Kaur, Inglis, Jeffery, Keogh, Kolker, Laming, Letts, Lewzey, Lloyd, Mead, Mintoff, Morrell (Minutes 8-24), Moulton, Noon, Norris, Dr Paffey, Parnell (Minutes 1-18), Payne, Pope, Rayment (Minutes 1-11), Shields, Smith, Spicer, Stevens, Thomas (Minutes 8-24), Thorpe, Tucker, Turner, Vassiliou, Vinson and Whitbread

1. CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON AWARDS

COUNCILLOR BURKE IN THE CHAIR

RESOLVED upon the motion of the Mayor (Councillor Burke) and seconded by the Sheriff (Councillor White), that the City of Southampton Award be presented to Roger Thornton and Trixie Neilson.

2. SOUTHAMPTON'S CHILDREN'S POET LAUREATE

RESOLVED that Matt West be appointed as Southampton's Children's Poet Laureate

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor Baillie, seconded by Councillor Letts and supported by Councillor Turner, that Councillor White be elected to the Office of 791st Mayor of Southampton and Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Mayor (Councillor White) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR WHITE) IN THE CHAIR

4. MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The Mayor announced that he would be supporting the Southampton Women's Aid and would be setting aside money raised for a community chest.

5. TO ELECT A SHERIFF FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor Rayment, seconded by Councillor Claisse and supported by Councillor Vinson, that Councillor Blatchford be appointed the 576th Sheriff of the City of Southampton and Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Sheriff (Councillor Blatchford) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor Barnes-Andrews, seconded by Councillor Smith and supported by Councillor Vinson that the Council places on record its appreciation for the distinguished manner in which Councillor Burke had discharged the duties of the Mayor of the City during the period of his term of office.

7. SOUTHAMPTON BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARDS

RESOLVED that the Southampton Business Success Award be presented to Southampton Solent University

**AT THE RECONVENED MEETING OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE ON 15th MAY, 2013**

8. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor McEwing.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th March, 2013 and 25th April 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Cllr Moulton referred to the meeting of 25th April and sought clarification as to the number of requests there had been to film as there was evidence to suggest conflicting information had been provided. It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would review this outside of the meeting and feedback to Cllr Moulton.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor thanked all Members for their support in electing him as Mayor. In order for the meeting to run efficiently and effectively, he asked Members to keep in mind throughout the year the basic courtesies needed to be adhered to for this to happen; timeliness both in arriving at the meeting and when speaking; speaking to the point, and listening carefully to the arguments. He also asked Members to remember the courtesies they would like from members when they were speaking and to extend those to others.

11. ELECTION OF THE LEADER

The nomination of Councillor Letts was moved and seconded.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE IT WAS:

RESOLVED that Councillor Letts be elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

Following his election as Leader, Councillor Letts informed the Council of his Cabinet and their Portfolio responsibilities.

Deputy Leader and Resources – Councillor Barnes Andrews

Health and Adult Services – Councillor Shields

Children’s Services - Councillor Bogle

Change and Communities – Councillor Rayment

Economic Development and Leisure - Councillor Tucker

Environment and Transport – Councillor Thorpe

Housing and Sustainability – Councillor Payne

The Leader then circulated details of the contents of each of the Portfolios and announced that these would be incorporated into the scheme of Executive Delegation in the Constitution (copy appended to signed minutes).

12. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The report of the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services, was submitted seeking approval for changes to the City Council’s Constitution (copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the changes to the Constitution as set out in the report be approved subject to the re-wording of Appendix 1; 4.1 last bullet point and Appendix 2, Executive Procedure Rules 2.7 being withdrawn at this time and revisited as part of proposed constitutional changes for 2014;
- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services to finalise the arrangements as approved by Full Council and make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision(s) of Full Council;
- (iii) that the City Council’s Constitution, as amended, including the Officer Scheme of Delegation for the municipal year 2013/14 be approved;
- (iv) that the Head of Communities, Change and Partnership be designated s the Council’s Scrutiny Officer; and
- (v) that the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services develop protocols between the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Police and Crime Panel, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the successor to Southampton Link.

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

RESOLVED that subject to certain decisions that may, from time to time be made by the Council, the following Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies be appointed with the allocation of seats to political groups shown therein and they be delegated authority to act within their Terms of Reference.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Political Group	Seats on Council	%
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Labour	27	57.44
Conservative	16	34.04
Liberal Democrats	2	4.25
Labour Councillors Against the Cuts	2	4.25

Committees	Labour	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour Councillors Against The Cuts	Number of Seats to Groups
Overview and Scrutiny Management(10)	Cllr Keogh Cllr Chaloner Cllr Mintoff Cllr McEwing Cllr Lewzey	Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr Hannides Cllr Moulton	Cllr Vinson	Cllr Morrell	10
Planning and Rights of Way (7)	Cllr Mrs Blatchford Cllr Cunio Cllr Lloyd Cllr Lewzey	Cllr Claisse Cllr L Harris Cllr Norris	0	0	7
Employment and Appeals Panel (7)	Cllr McEwing Cllr Mintoff Cllr Laming Cllr Whitbread	2 Cllr Kolker Cllr B Harris	0	Cllr Thomas	7
Chief Officer Employment Panel (7)	Cllr Letts Cllr Rayment Cllr Barnes Cllr Andrews Cllr Burke	Cllr Moulton Cllr Smith	0	0	6
Licensing Committee (13)	Cllr Mrs Blatchford Cllr Cunio Cllr Laming Cllr Lewzey Cllr Lloyd Cllr Spicer Cllr Pope	Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr B Harris Cllr L Harris Cllr Parnell Cllr Vassiliou	0	Cllr Thomas	13

Governance Committee - (9) includes 2 Independent Members	Cllr Laming Cllr Furnell Cllr Kaur Cllr Keogh	Cllr Daunt Cllr Parnell Cllr Inglis	0	0	7
Sub-Committees					
	Labour	Con	Lib Dem		
Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (7)	Cllr Jeffery Cllr Lewzey Cllr Chaloner Cllr Spicer Cllr Cunio	Cllr Claisse Cllr Parnell	0	0	7
Scrutiny Panel A (7)	Cllr McEwing Cllr Kaur Cllr Mintoff Cllr Lloyd	Cllr Daunt Cllr Parnell	Cllr Vinson	0	7
Scrutiny Panel B (7)	Cllr Furnell Cllr Kaur Cllr Dr Paffey Cllr Jeffery	Cllr Baillie Cllr Norris	Cllr Turner	0	7
Licensing General Sub-Committee (5) (Membership must come from membership of Licensing Committee)	Cllr Mrs Blatchford Cllr Cunio Cllr Lewzey	Cllr Parnell Cllr Vassiliou	0	0	5
Standards Sub-Committee (4) Including 1 Independent Member (Membership from Governance Committee)	Cllr Kaur Cllr Keogh	Cllr Parnell	0	0	3
Standards Appeal Sub-Committee (4) Including 1 Independent Member (Membership from	Cllr Laming Cllr Furnell	Cllr Inglis	0	0	3

Governance Committee)					
TOTAL	48	28	3	3	82

- 1) Appointment to Committees / Sub-Committees and other Bodies NOT subject to political proportionality and therefore not included in the above calculations.

Committee/Sub-Committee	Labour	Con	Lib Dem	Labour Councillors Against The Cuts	Number of Seats to Groups
Licensing and Gambling Sub-Committee (3) (Any 3 Members drawn from the Licensing Committee membership on rotation basis)	1 (+1)	1(+1)	0	0	3

Other bodies	Labour	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour Councillors Against The Cuts	Number of Seats to Groups
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (3)	Cllr Pope Cllr Mintoff	Cllr Smith	0	0	3
South East Employers (3 + 3)	Cllr Jeffery Cllr Poper (Deputy)	1 (+1) (Deputy)	Cllr Vinson Cllr Turner (Deputy)	0	6
Local Democracy Network for Councillors (2)	0	1	Cllr Vinson	0	2
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire – Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1)	0	0	Cllr Vinson	0	1
Hampshire Police and Crime Panel <i>(Overall proportionality is calculated across the County. This may require a change in appointment)</i>	Cllr Rayment Cllr Mrs Blatchford (Deputy)				1

(b) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS

RESOLVED that the following Chairs be elected for the 2013/14 municipal year and that the Vice-Chairs be elected at their first meetings of the municipal year:-

Committee/Panel	Chair
Overview and Scrutiny Management	Cllr Moulton
Planning and Rights of Way	Cllr Mrs Blatchford
Employment and Appeals	Cllr McEwing
Chief Officer Employment	Cllr Letts
Licensing	Cllr Cunio
Governance	Cllr Furnell
Health Overview and Scrutiny	Cllr Jeffery
Scrutiny A	Cllr Kaur
Scrutiny B	Cllr Dr Paffey
Licensing General Sub-Committee	Cllr Cunio
Standards Sub-Committee	To be appointed as and when necessary
Standards Appeal Sub-Committee	To be appointed as and when necessary

14. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the following dates for meetings of the Council in the 2013/14 Municipal Year be approved:

17th July 2013
18th September 2013
20th November 2013
12th February 2014 (Budget)
19th March 2014
4th June 2014 – Date reflects current understanding of date of European Elections which would be combined with Local Elections.

15. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received and noted a deputation from Maybush Residents Association and pupils from Newlands School – 20mph.
- (ii) The Council received and noted a deputation from Steve Squibb on behalf of Southampton against the Bedroom Tax.
- (iii) The Council received and noted a petition having reached 1,500 signatures under the Council's Procedure Rules regarding Government Changes to the NHS from Jane Freeland.

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14.4 to enable flexibility in debate.

With the consent of the meeting, Councillor Shields altered and moved his motion and Councillor Pope seconded

“The Council notes the petition from Southampton Keep Our NHS Public / Southampton Defend NHS Group, and recognises the concern expressed in relation to the potential effect of the National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) Regulations on service provision and delivery.

Council reaffirms its commitment to the policy on the NHS reforms agreed at its meeting of 20th March

Council resolves:

- That the position set out in the petition that services available through the NHS should be delivered by NHS providers in preference to private providers be supported provided that the quality of patient safety is not compromised.
- That a letter be sent to local Members of Parliament seeking their support in encouraging commissioners of services provided to local people to ensure they are delivered by NHS providers wherever possible.
- That the Council will work closely with local NHS commissioners, neighbouring local authorities and the Local Government Association to promote and develop a high quality integrated care system in the Solent/ Wessex region based on democratically accountable public ownership.
- That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel works with Healthwatch Southampton and other patient and user groups to monitor the impact of the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 on the development of local health services.”

With the consent of the meeting Councillor Vinson altered and moved an amendment seconded by Councillor Turner

First bullet point third line DELETE

“safety is not compromised”

INSERT

“care is always the overriding consideration”

Second Bullet point third line after ensure they are

INSERT

“available to be delivered by”

Third bullet point last line

DELETE

“Ownership”

REPLACE with

“Services”

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

“The Council notes the petition from Southampton Keep Our NHS Public / Southampton Defend NHS Group, and recognises the concern expressed in relation to the potential effect of the National Health Service (Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition) Regulations on service provision and delivery.”

Council resolves:

- That the position set out in the petition that services available through the NHS should be delivered by NHS providers in preference to private providers be supported provided that the quality of patient care is always the overriding consideration;
- That a letter be sent to local Members of Parliament seeking their support in encouraging commissioners of services provided to local people to ensure they are available to be delivered by delivered by NHS providers wherever possible.
- That the Council will work closely with local NHS commissioners, neighbouring local authorities and the Local Government Association to promote and develop a high quality integrated care system in the Solent/ Wessex region based on democratically accountable public services.
- That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel works with Healthwatch Southampton and other patient and user groups to monitor the impact of the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 on the development of local health services.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE ALTERED MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SHIELDS WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the altered motion be approved.

16. 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. Sea City Museum

Question from Councillor Keogh to Councillor Payne

What is the predicted payback period for the SeaCity Museum and does the recent good attendance for its first year suggest it is generating net revenue to repay the debt required to support its building?

Answer

The first year's visitor numbers have been very encouraging. The aim is for SeaCity to cover its operational costs. It is not anticipated that surplus funds will be generated to accelerate the payback of borrowing.

2. St Mark's School

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Bogle

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on Council efforts to resolve the damage caused by flooding at St Mark's school last year?

Answer

The works to the roof at St. Marks have been phased as follows:

- The Authority was first notified of lead theft at the school in September 2012. The work to rectify this problem was completed in October 2012;
- The Authority was notified of further lead theft in October 2012. These issues were rectified in November 2012;
- The Authority took the decision to prevent the potential for further lead theft by replacing all vulnerable areas of lead on the school roof with an ubiflex solution (which has no resale value). It is anticipated that this work will be completed this month (May). Repair of internal damage resulting from the water ingress into the property, together with the rectification of any remaining leaks (which classify as minor repairs) are the responsibility of the school, as set out in the Council's Scheme for financing Schools.

3. Education Costs

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Bogle

How much does the Cabinet Member think is an adequate sum to educate a child in a Southampton School?

Answer

The factors in the formula and the data for each school are defined by the Department for Education.

Each Primary and Secondary school and Academy's budget share is calculated according to the Southampton funding formula.

The funding unit value assigned to each factor is agreed locally by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services following consultation with the Schools Forum. Southampton's formula is made up of ten factors

Group	Factor	Primary Unit Value	Secondary Unit Value
1) Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	AWPU	£2,662.49	£4,131.42
2) Deprivation	Free School Meals	£470.55	£679.12
	IDACI (1)	£0.00	£0.00

	IDACI (2)	£0.00	£0.00
	IDACI (3)	£500.00	£500.00
	IDACI (4)	£800.00	£800.00
	IDACI (5)	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
	IDACI (6)	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
3) Looked After Children	LAC	£679.12	£679.12
4) Low cost, high incidence SEN	Low Attainment	£847.33	£2342.52
5) English as an Additional Language	EAL	£702.91	£702.91
6) Mobility	Mobility	£679.12	£679.12
7) Lump Sum	Lump Sum	£114,200.00	£114,200.00
8) Split Sites	Split Sites	£28,452.00	£28,452.00
9) Rates	Rates	Actual Cost	Actual Cost
10) PFI funding	PFI funding	£0.00	£450,000 allocated to 3 PFI schools

Pupils will attract a different amount of funding depending on their age, attainment, FSM, where they live (IDACI) etc.

Further to this, the Schools Forum has agreed that a small proportion of the funding is held centrally by the local authority for a number areas and contingencies, one of which is in-year growth in numbers.

The DfE has produced benchmarking data comparing all authority funding formulas and Southampton is certainly in line with the most common amounts funded through each factor

4. 20mph limits

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Thorpe

Many constituents in Freemantle Ward would like 20mph limits introduced in their road. How much longer will they have to wait before the Council introduces such speed limits?

Answer

The Council is examining the feasibility and value of introducing 20mph speed limits, as opposed to 20mph 'Zones' with traffic calming, across residential areas of the City.

Consultation on a pilot 20mph speed limit, with signs and markings only, will be taking place in the next few weeks, in an area in the north-west of the City

The scheme, if supported, will be introduced by the end of the summer.

Officers will then monitor the outcomes in terms of accidents, vehicle speeds, travel trends and residents' perceptions.

Where similar projects have been introduced in other areas of the country without comprehensive before and after monitoring, it has been difficult to demonstrate the effectiveness of these measures.

It is expected that the monitoring of the pilot scheme will be completed early next year, around 6 months after scheme introduction.

If the pilot scheme is found to be successful against its objectives, the Council may decide to allocate an element of future Local Transport Plan funding towards a roll-out of 20mph limits in other residential areas across the City.

5. Question withdrawn by the Councillor

6. Policies

Question from Councillor Smith to the Leader

Can the Leader explain how their policies will differ from the last Leader?

Answer

Key priorities for the City would be thinking creatively to resolve

- Economy – Self Employed businesses were significantly lower in Southampton than surrounding areas; these would be encouraged to take forward to promote economy growth and wellbeing.
- Wages in the City – Were lower than neighbouring regions, engagement would take place with partners to encourage higher paid jobs to the City.
- City Deal – Engagement with investors would take place to encourage them to come to Southampton.
- Raising Living Standards – Engagement with Health colleagues to promote the raising of living standards. It was noted that statistics indicated that life expectancy could vary by 10yrs depending on which part of the City residents lived due to high levels of deprivation in parts. There would also be encouragement to “get people working”.
- Public Engagement – Ways to engage the public in identifying priorities and decision making to be developed.
- Referendums – Opportunities to be explored balanced with budget constraints.
- Budget – Change Programme will see the implementation of new structures which would contribute to a future balanced budget.
- Generate Income – Opportunities to be explored.

7. Monitoring Officer Report / Investigation

Question from Councillor Smith to the Leader

Can the Leader explain what their involvement was in the 'Councillor Morrell affair'?

Answer

This item was debated in full at the March Council meeting, the report was a fair summary of the facts and there was nothing more to add.

8. Cared-for Children

Question from Councillor Les Harris to Councillor Bogle

Can the Cabinet Member, please tell us how many children there are in Council care, how many of those are in foster care, and how many were adopted or in the process of adoption last year?

Answer

There are currently 474 children looked after by the Council. 408 of those children are placed with foster carers. Of those 408, 320 are placed with Southampton foster carers and 88 are placed Independent Fostering Agencies. In financial year (2012/13) 31 children were linked with prospective adopters. 27 children were adopted.

9. HIV Funding

Question from Councillor Parnell to Councillor Letts

Why has the funding for Groundswell been reduced for their work with aids/ HIV when the Government has given Southampton City Council £154,000 earmarked as a grant expressly to help address the specific and complex social care needs of people living with HIV in Southampton?

Answer

The funding for HIV/AIDS services is not ring-fenced and is part of the total grant settlement for Southampton from central government. As such, the funding identified is only nominally set against this spending.

Since the ring-fence for this grant was withdrawn in 2009/10, Southampton has not used the full grant on HIV/AIDS services. Instead, a smaller amount has been allocated. This reflects the city's priorities and the fact that services are not statutorily required, although there is recognition of their positive impact.

The reduction in funding from 2013 follows the ending of current contracts, and a retendering process being undertaken. In addition, in light of the budget situation and priorities for expenditure the full Council made the decision to reduce the funding for HIV/AIDS services in the city to £33k from 2013/14. Agency comments were available following the consultation process from November 2012 to February 2013.

10. Youth Services

Question from Councillor Thomas to Councillor Bogle

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the undertaking given at the February Council meeting to maintain all youth service sessions until December is being honoured, and tell us what plan is in place to maintain them after December?

Answer

The strategy for youth and play in this financial year is to maintain targeted work at:

- Woolston
- Newtown
- Millbrook
- Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre
- Newtown Adventure Playground
- Thornhill Adventure Playground

And universal services at:

- Northam,
- Swaythling,
- Woodlands
- Sholing

Throughout 2013/14 strategic partnerships with faith, community and voluntary sectors are developing to continue provision post 2013/14.

Location	Activity per week	Time commitment
Woolston	X1	March 14
Newtown	X4	March 14
Millbrook	X2	March 14
ZBPC	X5	March 14
NAP	X5	March 14
TAP	X5	March 14
Northam	X1	December 13
Swaythling	X1	December 13
Woodlands	X1	December 13
Sholing	X1	December 13

11. Youth Services

Question from Councillor Turner to Councillor Bogle

Does the Cabinet Member consider that to hold reserves of up to £2m while abandoning youth work accords with good governance of the City?

Answer

A number of groups and activities as well as funding for various buildings to host such activities have been continued this year, as a result of changes to the budget agreed in February. A series of options for the future are now being explored, within the context of a redesign of Children's Services as part of the People Directorate changes.

Some difficult decisions were taken in the 2013/14 budget, and putting some funds into reserves makes sense in a financial climate where similar levels of savings will need to be found in the 2014/15 budget round.

In the medium term the level of balances set aside by the Council will be the minimum level assessed by the Chief Financial Officer as being required based on an analysis of the risks the Council faces.

12. Cultural City

Question from Councillor Norris to Councillor Payne

With the advent of the competition to join with Portsmouth as the Cultural City of the South, what do you perceive will be the impact on Southampton's credibility following the reduction in opening hours for the City Art Gallery, along with the

reduction in staff in the Archaeology Department and the proposed reduction of the Events Team?

Answer

Whilst the public sector, including local government and key cultural organisations such as the Arts Council, experiences significant funding reductions, there are inevitably some difficult decisions to be made about revenue funding. Southampton has a vibrant cultural economy and for a sustainable future, we need to encourage less reliance on the public sector. The UK City of Culture bid seeks to raise aspirations and provide a platform to help all sectors of both Cities cultural offer, to grow and develop. Taking opportunities such as this to raise the profile of the City and promote its cultural offer will help us face the challenges that many other Cities are also inevitably facing.

13. Nolan Principles

Question from Councillor Vinson to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader regard the Nolan Principles as optional or obligatory?

Answer

All members were aware of the Nolan Principles and were encouraged to abide by them. Any concerns of breaches should be taken up with the Monitoring Officer

14. Surveillance

Question from Councillor Vinson to the Leader of the Council

Has the Council made use of private investigators during the past two years, and if so for what purposes?

Answer

The Council has not made use of private investigators during the past two years.

15. Proceeds of Crime

Question from Councillor Vinson to the Leader of the Council

On how many occasions has the Council made use of the 2002 Proceeds of Crime Act during the past five years to recoup fraudulent claims?

Answer

Regulatory Services has arrangements in place to carry out financial investigations to pursue POCA action in relevant cases, however, no funding has been recovered to date over the last five years.

16. Confidentiality Clauses

Question from Councillor Vinson to the Leader of the Council

Has the Council made use of confidentiality clauses in any staff compromise agreement during the past two years? If so, were ex gratia payments involved?

Answer

The Council has made use of confidentiality clauses in some staff compromise agreements over the last two years. Of these some would have included ex gratia payments.

17. Council Tenants' Spare Rooms

Question from Councillor Vinson to Councillor Payne

Has the Council issued any advice to its tenants regarding the letting of spare rooms to offset the so-called 'bedroom tax'?

Answer

There has been a range of advice given to council tenants about how to manage the impact of the reduction in housing benefits due to under occupying their home. This includes looking for work, seeking an increase in hours of work, moving via mutual exchange and considering taking in a lodger to help meet the shortfall in rent. The Money tree magazine was delivered to every tenant household where these options are detailed. The welfare benefit reform pages of the city council's website provides more detail on how to go about taking in a lodger and what a tenant needs to do if they wish to take up this option. There is also on the housing website, a page to promote "rent a room scheme" where links to external websites for searching for a lodger are given.

In addition all affected SCC tenants have been contacted by Housing staff over the past few months. A summary advice sheet was produced for staff to use when explaining the new rules and this includes advice about taking in a lodger. Housing benefit letters also include this advice.

18. Buy-to-let

Question from Councillor Vinson to Councillor Payne

Is the Cabinet Member aware that, according to statistics published by HSBC, Southampton heads the list of towns and cities with the highest buy-to-let rental yields?

Answer

Yes – this was in The Times four weeks ago. The research revealed that comparatively low property prices for the region coupled with strong rental demand in Southampton led to the City topping the list of locations with the highest average rental payback at 7.82 per cent per year. The average Southampton property for rental costs £138,311, while the average rent is £901 per month. About 24% of properties in the City are privately rented, which is twice the national average.

19. Newly Built Homes

Question from Councillor Baillie to Councillor Payne

What is your policy regarding setting the rent levels of newly built homes?

Answer

The Council is complying with Government policy for providing new affordable housing (as set out in the last comprehensive spending review) that Affordable Rent - up to 80 per cent of market rate - should be charged.

20. Labour Manifesto

Question from Councillor Baillie to the Leader of the Council

Now that your manifesto from last year has been independently and systematically rubbished, and with you no doubt wishing to set an example of honesty, what other promises from that manifesto will you now tell the people of Southampton you are going to ditch?

Answer

There would be a review which would be reflected in the Council Plan and submitted to the July meeting for debate.

17. MOTIONS

a) 20mph Zones

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14.4 to enable flexibility in debate.

Councillor Furnell moved and Councillor Pope seconded

“This Council believes that the introduction of 20mph zones across the City increases road safety for pedestrians. We support the proposed introduction of a trial 20mph zone in the Maybush and Redbridge areas. If this pilot scheme proves a success then Council calls on the Executive to bring forward proposals for similar schemes in other parts of the City as and when resources allow”.

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Smith

Third line following Maybush and Redbridge areas ADD

“subject to support from local residents”.

DELETE the third sentence and REPLACE with the following

“Council also resolves to roll out further schemes across the city as a priority, where residents are supportive”.

AMENDED MOTION TO READ

This Council believes that the introduction of 20mph zones across the City increases road safety for pedestrians. We support the proposed introduction of a trial 20mph zone in the Maybush and Redbridge areas subject to the support of local residents. Council also resolves to roll out further schemes across the city as a priority, where residents are supportive.

With the consent of the meeting, Councillor Turner withdrew her amendment

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR FURNELL WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be approved.

b) Charges for Residents Parking Schemes in the City

Councillor Moulton moved and Councillor Fitzhenry seconded

“This Council calls for a rethink of the Executive's plans to introduce new charges for residents parking schemes in the City. Council believe that in these difficult times we should be keeping costs down for residents and not lumbering them with new taxes. Council believes that first permits should remain free”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED LOST

RESOLVED that the motion be not approved.

c) Council Finances

Councillor Hannides moved and Councillor Moulton seconded

“Following the resignation of former Cllr Richard Williams, this Council calls for his half a million pound 'slush fund' for Leader's pet projects to be returned to Council balances and that this money should then instead be used to either help protect existing services under threat of cuts or instead be put to use repairing the City's roads and pavements”.

Amendment moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Turner

Forth Line DELETE

instead be

Fifth line INSERT

or to promote specific costed projects to generate employment.

AMENDED MOTION TO READ

Following the resignation of former Cllr Richard Williams, this Council calls for his half a million pound 'slush fund' for Leader's pet projects to be returned to Council balances and that this money should then instead be used to either help protect existing services under threat of cuts or be put to use repairing the City's roads and pavements, or to promote specific costed projects to generate employment.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED LOST

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED LOST

RESOLVED that the motion be not approved.

d) Bedroom Tax

Councillor Morrell moved and Councillor Thomas seconded

“Further to the resolution of the Council concerning the under-occupation penalty (so-called ‘Bedroom Tax’), Southampton Council further resolves not to evict any tenant who goes into rent arrears because of the ‘Bedroom Tax’ and calls on other local social housing providers to do the same. This Council also calls on the next Government to scrap the ‘Bedroom Tax’ legislation and reimburse councils where debts have accrued through non-payment”.

Amendment moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Kaur

Second line after (so-called “Bedroom Tax”) DELETE

Southampton Council further resolves not to evict any tenant who goes into rent arrears because of the 'Bedroom tax' and calls on other social housing providers to do the same.

And REPLACE with

Council should review its procedures to ensure that tenants effected by the bedroom tax have the maximum opportunity to downsize if that is their wish.

Forth line INSERT between next and Government

Labour.

Fifth line after legislation DELETE

and reimburse councils where debts have accrued through non-payment.

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

Further to the resolution of the Council concerning the under occupancy penalty (so called 'Bedroom tax) Council should review its procedures to ensure that tenants affected by the bedroom tax have the maximum opportunity to downsize if that is their wish. This Council also calls on the next Labour Government to scrap the 'Bedroom Tax' legislation.

Further amendment moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Turner

Second Line DELETE

further resolves not to evict any tenant who goes into rent arrears because of the 'Bedroom Tax' and calls on other local social housing providers to do the same. This Council also calls on the next Government to scrap the 'Bedroom Tax' legislation and reimburse councils where debts have accrued through non-payment.

REPLACE with

to review the definition of a bedroom in Council properties and encourage Housing Association to do likewise, optimise priority in the Council's housing allocation policies

for those seeking to downsize as a result of the under-occupation penalty, accept payment of rent in arrears, recognise those evidencing a genuine desire to downsize as a priority in the allocation of contingencies within the Council's welfare budgets pending identification of a suitable property, and promote the provision of more single-bedroom properties in the Council and Housing Association sectors until such time as the demand and supply have been balanced.

'This Council also calls on the Government to review the housing benefit rules (a) to exempt from the under-occupancy penalty those evidencing a genuine desire to downsize, pending identification of a suitable property and (b) to introduce additional flexibility into extend the grounds on which additional bedroom space is justified without penalty to cover e.g. single parents with shared custody or people with disabilities in need of occasional overnight support.'

AMENDED MOTION TO READ:

Further to the resolution of Council concerning the under-occupation penalty (so-called 'Bedroom Tax'), Southampton Council further resolves to review the definition of a bedroom in Council properties and encourage Housing Association to do likewise, optimise priority in the Council's housing allocation policies for those seeking to downsize as a result of the under-occupation penalty, accept payment of rent in arrears, recognise those evidencing a genuine desire to downsize as a priority in the allocation of contingencies within the Council's welfare budgets pending identification of a suitable property, and promote the provision of more single-bedroom properties in the Council and Housing Association sectors until such time as the demand and supply have been balanced.

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

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

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PAYNE AS AMENDED WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion as amended be approved.

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

It was noted that no questions to the Chairs of Committees or the Mayor had been received.

19. *REBUILD OF ERSKINE COURT, LORDSHILL

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure Services was submitted seeking approval for the phased rebuild of Erskine Court. (Copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that subject to obtaining Care and Specialist Supported Housing (CASSH) Grant of £2,700,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency:-

- i. acceptance of the CASSH grant to part fund the rebuild of Erskine Court be approved;
- ii. in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, the addition of £9,800,000 to the HRA Capital Programme for the rebuild of Erskine Court funded by the CASSH grant, any available capital receipts and the balance from additional borrowing within the HRA Business Plan be approved; and
- iii. in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, expenditure of £1,000,000 in 2013/14, £5,200,000 in 2014/15, and £3,600,000 in 2015/16 on the rebuild of Erskine Court be approved.

20. ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY UPDATE 2013

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources was submitted updating the Council's Accommodation Strategy and seeking approval to implement measures necessary to vacate Marland House. (Copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the addition of up to £1.2m, if required, to the Resources Capital Programme, phased £1M in 2013/14 and £200k in 2014/15, to complete work necessary to enable vacation of Marland House, to be funded by Council Resources be approved.

21. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO BE ADDED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport was submitted seeking approval for additional funding to be added to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme. (Copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- i. That the award of £2,470,000 of Local Pinch Point funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) be accepted;
- ii. That the addition of £2,470,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme funded from the DfT Local Pinch Point Fund Government Grant be approved;
- iii. That the addition of £410,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme funded from the 2015/16 Itchen Bridge Maintenance Fund (Revenue) be approved;
- iv. That the addition of £400,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme funded from the 2014/15 Local Transport Plan Government Grant be approved;
- v. That capital variations to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme totalling £910,000 in 2013/14 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved;
- vi. That as part of the above recommendations, a major scheme called "Bridges to Prosperity" would be created in order to maintain the major bridges in the City with a total budget of £4,190,000 and that the funding and detailed project expenditure as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted;
- vii. That in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £4,190,000 on the Bridges to Prosperity scheme with phasing of £1,590,000 in 2013/14, £2,190,000 in 2014/15, and £410,000 in 2015/16 be approved; and

viii. That there was an obligation on the Council from DfT to cover any unbudgeted additional costs associated with the scheme be noted.

22. 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 appendix contained in the following report .

The appendix is considered to be confidential, the confidentiality of which is based on category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose this information because this appendix would prejudice the authority's ability to achieve best consideration for the disposal of land (the identity of the preferred developer and the figures associated with the land transaction are commercially sensitive).

23. SOUTHAMPTON NEW ARTS COMPLEX SCHEME

The report of the Leader was submitted regarding the new arts complex scheme. (Copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- i. That additional funding, up to the sum set out in confidential Appendix 1, of the report to the existing Southampton New Arts Complex Scheme and an increase in the capital programme by up to this additional sum be approved;
- ii. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, authority to determine the most appropriate way of financing this sum; and
- iii. That the potential for increased costs on the Arts Shell Fit Out, as set out in confidential Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

24. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

RESOLVED that the report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee detailing the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/2013 in accordance with the Council's Constitution be noted.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15 MAY 2013

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Burke
The Sheriff, Councillor White
Councillors Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Chaloner, Claisse,
Cunio, Daunt, Fitzhenry, Furnell, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Kaur, Inglis, Jeffery,
Keogh, Kolker, Laming, Letts, Lewzey, Lloyd, Mead, Mintoff, Moulton, Noon, Norris,
Dr Paffey, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Shields, Smith, Spicer, Stevens, Thorpe,
Tucker, Turner, Vassiliou, Vinson and Whitbread

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McEwing and Councillors Morrell and Thomas.

26. HONORARY ALDERMEN

RESOLVED unanimously:

That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the office of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Mrs Edwina Cooke, Mrs Elizabeth Mizon and Mr Dennis Harryman in recognition of their eminent service to the City and their names be recorded in the Roll of Honorary Alderman.