
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
17 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Blatchford
The Sheriff, Councillor Norris
Councillors Baillie, Barnes-Andrews, Bogle, Burke, Chaloner, Chamberlain, Claisse, Daunt, Denness, Fitzhenry, Galton, Hammond, Hannides, B Harris, L Harris, Hecks, Inglis, Jeffery, Kaur, Keogh (minutes 46 onwards), Letts, Lewzey, Lloyd, Mintoff, Morrell, Moulton, Noon, O'Neill, Dr Paffey, Painton, Parnell, Payne, Pope, Rayment, Shields, Smith, Spicer, Stevens (minutes 46(ii) Q2 onwards to item 51 and minutes 53 onwards), Thomas, Tucker, Vassiliou, Whitbread and White

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Coombs, McEwing and Thorpe.

44. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 16th July 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

45. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

(i) Minute's Silence

The Mayor referred to the tragic death in August of a social worker in the child protection team. Roopesh Nawarkhele was involved in an accident whilst on holiday in India and did not survive. He and his wife were killed. Members stood for a minute's silence in remembrance.

(ii) National Construction Skills Award

The Mayor announced that for the second year running, the Skills and Regeneration Team had been awarded the National Construction Industry Skills award for the best Local Authority. The award had been made in recognition of their innovation and the outcomes from their work with developers in the City to enable people to obtain jobs and training opportunities.

(iii) Music in the City

Members noted that Music in the City, Southampton's live music event, would be held on the 4th and 5th October, 2014. The Sheriff thanked all those Councillors and Officers, who through their help and support, had contributed to the event.

46. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received the following Public Questions from Mr Smith. Mr Geering and Ms Ridehalgh were in attendance for this item. Councillor Barnes-Andrews, Cabinet Member for Resources and Leisure, gave the following response:

Question 1.

Following the 25% cut in funding for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme what is the current status of the Scheme?

Answer

The 25% reduction in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was implemented with effect from the 1st April 2014. In March 2014 the Council Tax bills were sent to all households in Southampton, and where a tax payer was entitled to receive CTRS, their bill was reduced to reflect their entitlement.

Question 2

What details does the Council possess on non-payment of Council Tax in Southampton?

Answer

The Council is aware of all tax payers who are in arrears of Council Tax, and maintains a full record of the action taken or underway to collect their outstanding payments

Question 3

What is the current state of the Council's Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Fund?

Answer

A sum set aside for the 2014/15 financial year for the discretionary fund is £200,000. As at the end of August, the number of successful applicants is 935, and there remains a sum of £37,000 in the fund.

- (ii) The Council received the following Public Questions from Mr Geering. Ms Watts, Mr Tudor, Ms Field and Mr Jukes were in attendance for this item. Councillor Rayment, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, gave the following response:

Question 1

How did the Council ensure that you adequately gathered and considered information about the disabled people affected by the cuts to local bus passes to enable a proper, informed view about the impact on equality and the risks of discrimination? What evidence did the Council use to properly assess the full impact on disabled people? For example, did you seek information from Spectrum or other local representative disability groups?

Answer

To assess and understand the direct impact of reverting to the national concessionary bus pass scheme for Disabled People, information gathered as part of the application process to assess eligibility based on disability was used. Additional information requested included age, gender, ethnicity and postcode. This information was used to inform the Equality and Safety Impact Assessment and the Cumulative Impact Assessment completed at the time.

Question 2

Regarding the impact on disabled people, how has the Council given proper consideration to the extent, nature and duration of that impact?

Answer

As per the previous response, the information gathered as part of the application process provided a profile of those currently in receipt of a pass and therefore directly affected by the proposal. This customer profile information, alongside local statistics on health and disability, was used to understand and consider the direct and wider impacts of the proposal on existing customers and to enable the identification of actions to help mitigate any negative impacts. From this we were able to identify the number and profile of disabled people affected by this proposal. The cumulative impact of the budget proposals on disabled people was also considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Question 3

Where there is a negative impact, how have you given consideration to how that could be eliminated or at least mitigated and can you detail what mitigation is offered to the significant number of disabled who do not meet the national criteria?

Answer

Given the financial context, the proposal was to revert to the national scheme and therefore the mitigating action of signposting individuals to the national scheme reflected our conclusion that in this case and for this proposal, the negative impacts were likely to be limited and where such impacts occurred, we considered them to be justified in the wider social

and resource context having regard to the need to prioritise key and essential services within Council resources. We considered these actions to be reasonable and proportionate. As the consultation feedback did not identify any specific issues or concerns about the changes to the disabled bus passes, we did not amend the mitigating action.

47. 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.

Arising from the Executive Business report, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care clarified that the wording contained in paragraph 13 of the report could have been made clearer in respect of Woodside Lodge Residential Home. Whilst the Council was consulting on the re-provision of services with a view to recommendations in due course coming forward, one of the options might include closure, however this might not be the only option that would be recommended to Council once the consultation period had been concluded.

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

1. Library Review

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Barnes-Andrews

What is the latest regarding the Administration's Library Review?

Answer

Substantial progress has been made in undertaking the Needs Assessment and reviewing possible options for the future of the service. The intention is to seek agreement from Cabinet in October to consult on the future of the service and to commence the consultation during November 2014.

2. Fly Tipping

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Rayment

Given the amount of fly tipping in Freemantle at the moment what measures are being taken to tackle the problem?

Answer

Fly tipping takes many forms across the whole city from a misplaced bag of refuse to organised criminal activities involving the disposal of trade and domestic waste.

Every effort is made to deal with the many cases of fly tipping reported through Action Line each year. In 2013/14 Southampton's street cleansing teams

attended and cleared almost 2,500 reports of fly tipping, 78% of which were cleared within one working day of notification. Almost 4,000 further cases of fly tipping were spotted and removed by street cleansing teams in the course of their regular rounds.

Enforcement plays a part where there is evidence of serious and organised fly tipping activity. Not all cases of fly tipping occur on land owned or maintained by the City Council. In such instances the Regulatory and City Services teams take appropriate action to ensure that landowners play their part in keeping the city clean. Work is also done with private landlords and agents to ensure that they recognise that the proper disposal of waste is part of their management responsibilities.

The Recycling Centre at the City Depot is also well used by city residents providing facilities for the proper disposal of domestic waste therefore cutting down fly tipping. Changes to be made to the charges for the Bulky Household Collection Service are also designed to encourage residents to arrange for the proper collection and disposal of items such as furniture, mattresses etc. that may otherwise be fly tipped.

Residents are encouraged to dispose of their waste responsibly and to report fly tipping incidents to Action line so that prompt action can be taken help keep the city clean and discourage further fly tipping.

3. City Centre Bridleway

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Rayment

What is the Administration's policy regarding the possible disposal to Network Rail of the Council owned bridleway that runs from Millbrook Station into the City Centre?

Answer

There is no actual policy regarding disposal, however Network Rail and SCC are currently looking at options around the requirements of Network Rail to extend their facilities in the Millbrook area, the implications of this and alternative options for the rights of way provision. A usage survey of the existing Rights of Way has been undertaken by Network Rail.

4. Excessive Use Of Lettings Boards

Question from Councillor Claisse to Councillor Rayment

At the March Council Meeting it was agreed that the Executive make full use of the powers available to curb the excessive use of lettings boards across the City. Could the Cabinet Member give us an update on the progress made so far?

Answer

The planning enforcement and HMO Licencing teams have been working closely together to progress this issue. The teams are also engaging with more than 50 Lettings Agents and other stakeholders.

In 2014/15 to date 260 letting boards have been removed. An additional HMO officer has been recruited and this additional resource will assist in tackling the issue of lettings boards.

5. Cycling In Pedestrian Areas And Illegal Parking

Question from Councillor Claisse to Councillor Rayment

In March last year this Council expressed concern at dangerous incidents of cycling in pedestrian areas and illegal parking on yellow lines. The Council called on the Executive to continue to support greater options for our cycling networks, raise these issues with the Police and Crime Commissioner and refresh existing joint strategies, whilst further exploring the range of powers available to the local authority. What have been the practical improvements made as a consequence of these commitments?

Answer

With regard to the Council's commitment to support greater options for cycling networks, the Council continues to invest and develop its cycle routes with the aim of providing safe, convenient cycle routes that encourage cycling within the City for shorter journeys. The 2014/15 capital programme included work to a key part of the Eastern Cycle route corridor from the Itchen Bridge to Central Bridge and the Platform Road highway capacity improvements which includes a new cycleway.

In addition, plans are underway to enhance the Western Corridor cycle route between the City and Totton/ New Forest, with improvements to parts of the route along Second Avenue expected to be made early in the 2015/16 financial year.

Engineering design work is also underway to progress the proposed North-South cycleway, which will utilise "Lovers Walk" footpath and connect the Highfield area with the city centre. Delivery of these strategic cycle route corridors will be dependent on the Council securing additional cycle infrastructure funding and taking advantage of any other funding opportunities that become available.

The Council continues to work with the Police on all aspects of Highway Safety including issues associated with cycling in pedestrianised areas. Where dangerous cycling does occur it would be a matter for the Police to enforce, however the Council supports this through education and awareness campaigns. The Council also takes these issues into account in designing and delivering high quality public realm schemes.

The Council continues to enforce illegal parking on double yellow lines. Our efforts are targeted on key problem areas to ensure the best use of Council resources.

6. Direct Payments

Question from Councillor Claisse to Councillor Shields

In 2012/13 within SCC Adult Social Care, the total number of clients receiving direct payments was 615 representing 6.6% of all adult social care service users. This compares to 15.6% in other Unitary Authorities. What was the position for 2013/14?

Answer

In 2013/14 within SCC Adult Social Care, the total number of clients receiving direct payments was 583 representing 6.8% of all adult social care service users. This compares to 19.1% in other Unitary Authorities.

The Council is working with SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living to support people to take up direct payments. SPECTRUM has recently launched a new direct payments website <http://www.directpaymentsouthampton.info> for information and fact sheets on all aspects of direct payments and management of personal assistants (PAs).

Direct payments cannot by law be used to purchase services provided by the Council and it has become apparent during the ongoing consultation on the future of day services that there is a general lack of understanding and knowledge of direct payments, especially among carers. One of the co-production workgroups is working to address this, which complements Adult Social Care's review of direct payments to ensure that the process is as straightforward as possible.

7. Safeguarding Children In The City

Question from Councillor Smith to Councillor Chaloner

In light of the shocking revelations in Rotherham and the failure of all the agencies involved, what assurances can the Cabinet Member give to the public that these heinous acts are not being perpetrated against children in Southampton?

Answer

The City Council and its partners take the matter of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) seriously and arrangements to address CSE in the city and the wider region are in place. It is now widely understood that CSE exists in every village, every town and every city in the country. The recent Ofsted inspection found there to be good awareness of, and responses to, the risks faced by children and young people across the City.

Alongside all of our services having experienced training and awareness raising in this area we have a dedicated social worker, co-located with the police, who undertakes direct work, assessments and monitoring of children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation. This specialist worker has supported 23 children since April 2014. A number of investigations remain ongoing and

multi-agency working and disruption strategies are leading to young people being protected and perpetrators being prosecuted.

All reports of children and young people who go missing from care are scrutinised by the police, and young people who may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation are referred to the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Group (MET) a sub group of the LSCB. 'Safe and well' visits are undertaken by police when a child returns to their placement. In addition, independent 'return home' interviews are undertaken via a contract with a voluntary sector provider, but information sharing from these interviews and ensuring missing children are effectively and robustly supported is not as effective as it could be.

We recognise these deficits and are reviewing commissioning and contract monitoring arrangements for this service and ensuring that arrangements for missing children are further enhanced within our improvement plan.

Further information in relation to our strategy that has been in place this year can be found here:

<http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/childsexualexploitation/>

8. Freemantle Community Centre

Question from Councillor Parnell to Councillor Shields

Has there been any communication between the Administration and the Trustees of the Freemantle Community Centre regarding the possible changes in Day Care Services?

Answer

Yes, an invitation to attend consultation meetings for partners and providers about the possible changes was sent to the Trustees.

Les Grafton, Deputy Chair of the Trustees, attended the first meeting held on 1 September 2014 and fed back his views, which will be incorporated in the consultation response.

The next meeting for partners and providers is scheduled for 2 October 2014 at 10.00am in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 at the Civic Centre. The Trustees are invited to attend this meeting also and, or, to feedback any further views on the proposals using the methods publicised on the Council's website.

To date, two meetings have also been held for carers of individuals using Day Care Services at Freemantle Community Centre and another is planned. Full details of these and the public meetings are available on the Council's website.

There have also been some informal exchanges on the contribution of the Community Centre to improving local community wellbeing between the Cabinet Member and individual Trustees before and during the concurrent exercise looking at ideas for a 'co production model' for Day Care Services.

9. Circulation of GCSE and A Level results

Question from Councillor Moulton to Councillor Jeffery

Please can the Cabinet Member ensure that all Councillors are sent the full breakdown of Key Stage 2, GCSE and A Level results by school, promptly after the data becomes available? In recent years this has not happened for some reason.

Answer

Of course we will provide the information when available.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.9 Questions 10 – 12 were unable to be submitted due to the timeframe allotted for this item.

48. MOTIONS

Councillor Moulton moved and Councillor Galton seconded:

“Full Council expresses its disappointment at the draft plans that are now being consulted upon for the regeneration for the Millbrook Estate and calls for a far more comprehensive and ambitious scheme.

Furthermore Full Council expresses its deep concern about the future loss of green space and a football pitch at Green Park that would result from the building of flats there”.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION WAS DECLARED NOT CARRIED

RESOLVED that the motion be **not** approved.

NOTE: Councillor Parnell declared a personal interest in the above matter, in view of his involvement as a founder member of the Millbrook Christian Centre and remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

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

The following questions were submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2

1. Membership and Responsibilities

Question from Councillor L Harris to Councillor Lewzey, Chair of the Planning and Rights of Way Panel

Can you please explain the reasons why Councillor Shields who is not a member of the Planning Panel and has not been so for over a year, and who also has never acted as Chair of that Panel in the past, was parachuted onto the Panel and then acted as Chair, when the properly elected and appointed Deputy Chair of the Panel, Councillor Lloyd, was present and it was known that she was going

to be present and was in attendance. Why was no apology given for the absence of the appointed and regular Chair of the Panel, Councillor Lewzey?

Answer

The vice chairs of Planning Panels had not yet received training in chairing meetings and so it was decided to arrange a chair with planning knowledge and experience of chairing complex meetings. Training has been arranged for vice chairs and it is intended that each vice-chair will take the chairing role of the Planning Panel in the future if the chair must give apologies.

I did give my apologies and I'm sorry that the reasons had not reached all panel members. I was at the graduation ceremony for my youngest child at Leeds University, which I hope would be seen as a satisfactory reason to give apologies.

2. Officer Attendance

Question from Councillor L Harris to Councillor Lewzey, Chair of the Planning and Rights of Way Panel

Why is the case officer of each planning application now never present and the cases are all presented by one planning officer on everyone's behalf. This presenting officer will not have all the background information we might ask about, nor be able to find or have access to information as the office will be closed.

Answer

With the implementation of evening meetings, it is not considered an efficient use of time, for case officers to be on call for these items in case detailed questions should arise. Team Leaders are briefed in advance of the meetings and members are welcome to request information or ask questions of the case officer prior to the Panel meeting.

3. Temporary Resignations from Panels

Question from Councillor L.Harris to Councillor Lewzey, Chair of the Planning and Rights of Way Panel.

On the Agenda for the Planning Panel on Tuesday 16th September 2014 it states as follows:

"Item 10 apologies

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor Lewzey from the Panel, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor Shields to replace him for the purposes of this meeting.

As Councillor Lewzey had temporarily resigned for the purposes of this meeting, the Panel was required to appoint a Chair.

Resolved that Councillor Shields was elected Chair for the purposes of this meeting, the Panel was required to appoint a Chair."

Can you explain exactly what this means, as the term temporarily resigned is not clear? Why did the Vice-Chair not take over automatically? And as a person present at this meeting, I can recall none of this being discussed or disclosed at the time of the meeting.

Answer

The issue of the substitution of members on committees is not defined within legislation so common law conventions have grown up nationally over the years.

To avoid any confusion if a member is not able to make a meeting and the political party still wishes to retain its full allocation of voting members the convention is that prior to the meeting the member temporarily resigns from the committee, this automatically creates a vacancy and under the political proportionality rules this can only be filled by another elected member from the same party. There is no need for any of this to happen at committee, it is all done prior to the meeting and is a long standing operational convention used by all parties from time to time.

Post committee the reverse happens to reappoint the standing member.

Please see the answer to Question 1 in relation to the part about the Vice-Chair.

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

It was noted that Councillor Noon had replaced Councillor Spicer on the Health and Overview Scrutiny Panel and that Councillor Whitbread had replaced Councillor Jeffery as the Council's representative on South East Employers.

51. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: SUMMARY OF CALL IN ACTIVITY

It was noted that there had been no use of the call-in procedure since last reported to Council.

52. LATE NIGHT LEVY - CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted detailing the responses to the consultation on the proposal to introduce a Late Night Levy to Southampton (copy of report circulated with the agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) That the introduction of a Late Night Levy as detailed in the report be approved;
- (ii) That pursuant to section 132(1) of the 2011 Act:

- a. the date on which the late night levy requirement is first to apply is 1st April 2015
- b. for the first levy year and, subject to section 133 of the 2011 Act, each subsequent levy year:-
 - i. the late night supply period shall begin at one minute past midnight and end at 6 am;
 - ii. that the following permitted exemption categories as defined in regulation 4 of the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 are to apply:-
 1. regulation 4(a) – hotels etc. supplying alcohol for on-consumption by resident patrons;
 2. regulation 4(b) – theatres supplying alcohol for on-consumption to ticket holders, performers, guests at private events;
 3. regulation 4(c) – cinemas supplying alcohol for on-consumption to ticket holders, guests at private events;
 4. regulation 4(d) – bingo halls where the playing of non-remote bingo is the primary activity;
 5. regulation 4(e) – registered community amateur sports clubs;
 6. regulation 4(f) – community premises like church halls and village halls, etc. that are subject to the alternative licence condition; and
 7. regulation 4 (i) – premises authorised to supply alcohol for on-consumption only between midnight and 6 am on 1 January.
 - iii. that the following permitted exemption category as defined in regulation 4 of the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 is not to apply:-
 1. regulation 4(g) – single country village pubs in designated rural settlements which receive rate relief;
 2. regulation 4(h) – premises liable for the Business Improvement District levy.
 - iv. that the following permitted reduction category as defined in regulation 5 of the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 is not to apply:-
 1. regulation 5(1)(a) – members of business-led best practice schemes
 Save that if such a scheme is subsequently approved and adopted by the Council in accordance with resolution (iii) below that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to administer the scheme and take all decisions in relation to it, including reductions in the levy payable by approved premises
 2. regulation 5(1)(b) – certain premises authorised to supply alcohol for on-consumption which receive small business rate relief.

- v. the proportion of the net amount of levy payments that is to be paid to the relevant local policing body under section 131 of the 2011 Act is 70 per cent.
- (iii) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be granted delegated powers to do all things necessary to implement these decisions, including:-
- a. Power to publish notice of the decisions in accordance with regulation 9(1)(b) of the Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012;
 - b. Power to determine whether the holders of any relevant late night authorisations fall within any permitted exemption or reduction categories and in particular whether the holders of any relevant late night authorisations who are members of any subsequently approved business-led best practice scheme fall within the permitted reduction category;
 - c. Subject always to the statutory role of Licensing Committee and its Sub-Committees, to make arrangements for free applications to vary authorisations before the beginning of the first levy year and determine such applications in accordance with regulations 9(1)(c) and 9(5) of the Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012;
 - d. Power to determine the aggregate amount of expenses of the Council that are permitted deductions under section 130(1)(b) of the 2011 Act;
 - e. Power to publish annual notices under section 130(5) of the 2011 Act relating to anticipated expenses and the net amount of the levy payments;
 - f. Power to make adjustments to payments in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012;
 - g. Power to determine from time to time when and for what purposes the Council will apply the non-specified proportion of the net amount of the levy payments;
 - h. Authorisation to enter into an agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable regarding the use of the net amount of levy payments as a single programme and to establish a Late Night Levy Board (to include operators) to facilitate a single programme; and
 - i. Authorisation to create and implement a business-led best practice scheme that will satisfy the criteria contained in regulation 5(1)(a) of the Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012 after consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable, operators, and the Late Night Levy Board (if established).
- (iv) That it be noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services shall review the operation and effect of the levy in 2017 (or earlier, if considered necessary) and report the outcome of the review to Licensing Committee.

NOTE: Councillor Stevens declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the above matter, as a current licensee and left the meeting during the consideration of the matter;

NOTE: Councillor Barnes-Andrews declared a personal interest in the above matter, by virtue of his former employment as a licensee, and Councillor Parnell declared a personal interest as a founder member of the Street Pastors organisation, and both remained in the meeting during the consideration of the matter.

53. ELECTORAL CYCLE

The report of the Director, Corporate Services was submitted detailing the consultation arrangements that should be undertaken prior to the Council deciding which options should be approved in regard to the electoral cycle (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

Amendment moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Smith:

Recommendation (ii)

That the consultation process set out in this report be approved

ADD after "report"

"be approved, subject to the inclusion of the following questions:

- Whether the Cabinet and Leader model should be replaced with an Elected Mayor;
- Whether the number of councillors should be reduced by one third, and
- Whether the current electoral cycle should be replaced with biennial elections."

The amended recommendation to read:

- (ii) That the consultation process set out in this report be approved, subject to the inclusion of the following questions:
- Whether the Cabinet and Leader model should be replaced with an Elected Mayor;
 - Whether the number of councillors should be reduced by one third, and
 - Whether the current electoral cycle should be replaced with biennial elections.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED CARRIED

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE RESOLUTIONS IN THE REPORT AS AMENDED WERE DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Director of Corporate Services be authorised to consult on the principle of changing the Council's electoral cycle from elections by thirds to whole-Council elections every four years;
- (ii) That the consultation process set out in the report be approved, subject to the inclusion of the following questions:
- Whether the Cabinet and Leader model should be replaced with an Elected Mayor;
 - Whether the number of councillors should be reduced by one third, and
 - Whether the current electoral cycle should be replaced with biennial elections.
- (iii) That an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened before the 19th November 2014 meeting in order for Council to consider the results of the

- consultation and determine proposals for any change in its electoral governance arrangements; and
- (iv) That a cross-party working group be established to consider the results of the consultation and make a recommendation to be considered by Full Council.

54. CHANGES TO EXISTING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Leisure in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer was submitted setting out changes to existing Revenue and Capital budgets (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) That the results of the Consultation process outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (ii) That the Equality Impact Assessment process that was followed as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the efficiencies, income and service reductions as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- (iv) that the high level forecast for the General Fund for 2013/14 to 2015/16 as detailed in paragraphs 22 to 24 of the report be noted;
- (v) that the position in relation to City Catering as set out in paragraph 18 of the report be noted;
- (vi) that Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to action all budget changes arising from the approved efficiencies, income and service reductions and incorporate any other approved amendments into the General Fund estimates; and
- (vii) that Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, to do anything necessary to give effect to the above resolutions.

55. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 – 2018/19

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainability was submitted updating the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme and detailing changes since the last update in February 2014 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved: and
- (ii) That the use of resources to fund the HRA Capital Programme, as shown in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.

56. THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 TO 2016/17

The report of the Chief Financial Officer was submitted detailing the General Fund Capital Programme from 2013/14 to 2016/17 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) That the revised General Fund Capital Programme, which totals £144.0M (as detailed in paragraph 4 to the report) and the associated use of resources be approved;
- (ii) that the changes to the programme as summarised in Appendix 2 and described in detail in Appendix 3 of the report be noted;
- (iii) that the portfolio programme changes, slippage and re-phasing and financial and project issues as described in detail in Appendix 3 to the report be noted;
- (iv) that a sum of £250,000 be added to the Environment and Transport capital programme in 2015/16 for the North of Station Quarter Phase 2 scheme to be funded from the LTP Capital Grant funding 2015/16;
- (v) that a sum of £350,000 be added to the Environment and Transport capital programme (subject to the approval from Network Rail) in 2014/15 for the North of Station Quarter Phase 2 scheme to be funded by external contribution from Network Rail's National Station Improvement Programme;
- (vi) that a sum of £4,185,000 be added to the Environment and Transport capital programme (subject to the approval from the Solent LEP) in 2015/16 for the North of Station Quarter Phase 2 scheme to be funded from Solent LEP Local Growth Deal grant;
- (vii) that spending of £5,225,000 in total on the North of Station Quarter Phase 2 scheme, phased £790,000 in 2014/15 and £4,435,000 in 2015/16, be approved (other funding of £440,000 is already included in the capital programme);
- (viii) that it be noted that the revised General Fund Capital Programme is based on prudent assumptions of future Government Grants to be received, due to the uncertainty surrounding the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2015/16 and future years;
- (ix) that it be noted that the balance of additional temporary borrowing taken out in 2010/11 and 2011/12 due to cash flow issues, now totalling £3.65M, is expected to be repaid by the end of 2015/16 when anticipated capital receipts are finally forecast to be received;
- (x) that it be noted that the Council is shortly to consider a revised disposal strategy which, whilst enabling the current capital programme to remain fully funded, would significantly reduce the ability to fund additional capital schemes from Council Resources; and
- (xi) that the financial and project issues which are set out in paragraphs 29 to 33 of the report and detailed in Appendix 3 to the report for each Portfolio be noted.